



Lamont Health Care Centre

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2018 Community Newsletter – Spring/Summer Edition

‘MEDICAL CORNER’

OPIOIDS

Unintentional drug overdoses have rapidly become a public health crisis in Canada; the overdose crisis has exposed the large gaps in our drug treatment system and the uneven access to harm reduction services.

One of the most significant factors affecting current pain management in Canada is the lack of adequate education of most health care professionals.

Physicians have an ethical obligation to try to relieve pain and suffering without doing harm. Since pain is an individual, subjective experience, it is often difficult to decide at what point a trial of opioid therapy is indicated.

In spite of how common acute and chronic pain are in medical practice and the huge impact of pain treatment on the economy, few hospitals have acute pain services and the wait times to Pain Specialists can be years in some provinces.

As we know, there are different types of pain: acute pain, chronic non-cancer pain, cancer pain, neuropathic pain, etc.

There are many types of opioids that we can use to treat Patient pain; the treatment can be started with Tramadol, Codeine, Oxycodone, Hydromorphone or Fentanyl.

The art of optimizing long term opioid therapy is to find the right opioid via the right route at the right dose for the right Patient.

Nowadays we see many people having symptoms of drug seeking behavior who come to the Emergency Department asking for refills or complaining of pain. This is why Lamont Health Care Centre has a policy of not refilling or prescribing narcotics in the Emergency Department or initiating a prescription for narcotics. Our advice to a Patient is to follow-up with the Family Doctor in order to discuss the options for treatment.

As a treatment of opioids overdose in Lamont Health Care Centre, we have a Narcan Kit which is used as an antidote for an opioid overdose. We advise people who are on narcotics to always have a Narcan Kit and to be more cautious about opioid use since an overdose without timely treatment may lead to death.

- Dr. Eyad El-Hajj, Chief of Medical Staff–LHCC

Mission Statement

We believe that wholeness of body, mind and spirit is God's will for every person.

We are committed to the healing process, the promotion of health

and the provision of compassionate care to all persons.