

# Pharmacy Issues Forum 2019

Opportunities

Challenges

Environment

# Future

# Your panelists:

- John Stanzeleit, PAS Board Chair
- Justin Kosar, President, SCPP Council
- Dawn Martin, CEO, PAS
- Jeana Wendel, Registrar, SCPP
- Brittany Sharkey, Lead, CompEX Program, SCPP
- Yvonne Shevchuk, Associate Dean, Faculty of Pharmacy and Nutrition, U of S

# Issues Forum Process

- Presentations on top issues from registrants 5 – 7 minutes and time for specific questions after each one.
- Then general open forum for any further questions related to either the presented topics or additional items of interest from participants.

# Top Issues identified by conference participants:

- **Opioids/Addiction/Methadone Compounding**
  - PAS Opioid Support Survey – results
  - SCPP – sources of information and supports for pharmacists
  - SCPP – new NAPRA compounding guidelines
- **PAS Negotiations/Funding Model**
  - October 2018 contract changes and related discussions
  - Priorities and issues identified for 2019
  - Negotiations environment
- **PharmD Bridging Program - Update**

# PAS Opioid Management Support Survey – Results

Key themes:

- **77.5%** of pharmacists are confident in their knowledge around opioid dispensing and management
- **Pharmacists struggle with:**
  - Collaboration with physicians
  - Initiating conversations with patients about opioid use
  - Managing patient expectations
  - Opioid conversions
- **Pharmacist reporting on patients' thoughts about opioids:**
  - One group fears the potential for addiction and side effects
  - Another group feels opioids are very safe in every situation
- **Pharmacists would like more training on:**
  - Naloxone
  - Cannabis
  - How to speak to patients and physicians about problems with opioid prescriptions

# PAS Opioid Management Support Survey – Results

The survey:

- April 8<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup>, 2019
- 26 questions
- n = 129

Key themes emerging from survey:

## Biggest challenges:

Managing opioid-dependence behaviour  
(58.9%)

Managing patient expectations (46.5%)

Collaboration with physician (44.2%)

## Gaps in knowledge:

Low confidence or comfort in training patients to use naloxone  
(75.2%)

Discontinuing opioids and managing withdrawal (65.9%)

Opioid conversions (55%)

Setting up an opioid trial (41.9%)

## Pharmacists want more:

1-page reference sheets (30.2%)

Lists of locations for harm-reduction services (19.4%)

Information on cannabis (13.2%)

# PAS Opioid Management Support Survey – Results

- **Do you feel competent?**
  - “Yes, I feel I do have the knowledge to counsel patients, but I think I am still learning and trying to figure out ways to address concerning opioid use and counsel patients on the risk of dependence and addiction without scaring them away from using opioids at all (when it is the best choice for their pain).”
- **What kind of additional resources could you benefit from?**
  - “I would love more tools to help me collaborate with physicians to get patients off opioids who no longer require them.”
  - “More cannabis info, especially for the elderly. Getting increased questions from this population. Mostly in regard to pain management and interactions with current meds.”
  - “Even though I live in a city, I don’t know off the top of my head where the needle exchanges are. Having an easy-to-access reference online for these types of questions would be great.”
  - “More information about Suboxone is needed, as both an alternative pain management strategy as well as OAT. It would be great to have a one-pager about its use in chronic pain and also a list of physicians in SK who regularly see patients for chronic pain and start them on Suboxone.”

# PAS Opioid Management Support Survey - Results

- **What are the biggest challenges you face in managing opioids?**
  - “I feel slightly uncomfortable talking about the addictive nature of and risks associated with the meds.”
  - “I think, in order to tackle the [opioid] crisis, the pharmacists need to be more involved and have more authority to say no to early releases..”
  - “More care needs to be taken at the time of initial prescribing (starting someone on an opioid). The patient’s addiction risk needs to be assessed to avoid pain management for acute pain turning into chronic addiction...clients expect pharmacists to just dispense the medication without question. There is much defensiveness on the client’s part if I question their use of opioids.”
- **What barriers prevent you from supplying naloxone?**
  - “Most people would be more receptive if they were free...we should be having more conversations with our patients to improve awareness.”
  - “Training”



# SCPP – Harm Reduction, Education and Support Tools

- NAPRA launching a support tool to help pharmacist engage in difficult conversations with patients regarding opioids.
- Ms. Fatani – (Pharm. D. candidate) is working with SCPP and her thesis is “Educational Strategies to Support Community Pharmacists in the Management of Substance Use Disorder.”
- The goal of the project is to develop an educational and training strategy to improve the practice of community pharmacists to provide proper care and services for people living with substance use disorder. The training/education focuses on delivering prompt initiative through screening, motivation and referral for community resources.
- Once completed (end of 2019) SCPP will provide the tools and educational learnings to members.

# SCPP – Harm Reduction, Education and Support Tools

- SCPP, CPDPP and medSask are working together to secure funding from MoH to build training and education for members. MoH's goal is to recruit and train more health care professionals qualified to provide opioid-substitution therapy.
- Create a base to build on for pharmacists prescribing if/when the CDSA is amended to recognize pharmacists as practitioners.
- Collaborating with PAS to incorporate the results from the recent opioid survey to target education needs.

# NAPRA Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding

- NAPRA has developed a procedure template to assist with developing standard operating procedures
- Checklists to complete a gap analysis will be released with the next CompEX MicroSCOPE
- Methadone: explanatory risk assessment video developed
  - We must be mindful that when providing services, it must be done in a way that continues to also protect pharmacy staff and patients from unnecessary drug exposure

# NAPRA Model Standards for Pharmacy Compounding

- Option to meet Level A compliance within limited space = portable countertop glove box
  - A glove box will act as a Level A separate area without having to do a renovation to develop a separate area that is out of the traffic flow of the main dispensary

# PAS Negotiations/Funding Model

- November 2018 contract – overview
- 2019 contract issues and priorities
  - New Economics Committee
  - PAS Pharmacy Affairs Advisory Council
  - Process and timelines
  - Priorities
    - Professional services fee
    - Markup, cap for high-cost drugs especially
    - Compounding fees; particularly methadone
    - SMAP audit improvements and fees
    - Larger health system role for pharmacists, including primary and public health (e.g. travel health) and enabling funding models

# PAS Negotiations/Funding Model

- **Negotiations Environment**

- Pan-Canadian world – the good, the bad and the ugly
- CPhA and provincial associations work on economic files
- PrescribeIT
- Pharmacare
- Regulatory impacts
- Image and reputation – positives and negatives
- Pharmacy and other health provider relations and info-sharing



# Pharm D Bridging Program Update

# We're still available after today...

- All of us are available to you after today – make sure you are engaging, questioning, participating and contributing....
- Thank you!