



May 2023

Your Worship,

Whether you live in a large, cosmopolitan city or a small hamlet, you have been faced with the opioid crisis facing Canadians.

The National Chronic Pain Society is asking for your assistance to help patients suffering from chronic pain from becoming addicted to opioids.

Recently, the Ontario College of Physicians and Surgeons has made a decision that will lead more people who suffer from chronic pain to turn to opioids to alleviate their pain. The College is targeting community pain clinics by requiring the use of ultrasound technology in the administration of nerve block injections by licensed physicians. They are not mandating this requirement for physicians in any other capacity, such as epidurals in hospitals. This requirement will increase the time it takes to administer the nerve block and, therefore, reduce the number of patients a physician can see in a day.

Also, the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is proposing to reduce coverage for several vital healthcare services, including a drastic reduction in the number and frequency of nerve block injections a patient can receive. These changes have been proposed without any consultation with pain management medical professionals or with their patients. This cut will force chronic pain clinics to shut down, putting a greater strain on family physicians and emergency rooms.

With the reduction in the number of nerve blocks being administered, many patients, looking for pain relief, will turn to overcrowded emergency rooms, opioid prescriptions from doctors or opioid street drugs.

We are asking that your Council pass a motion requesting that the Government of Ontario maintain OHIP coverage for chronic pain treatments and continue to provide much-needed care for the people of Ontario.

Further if you can please communicate that motion to the Premier, Minister of Health, Associate Minister of Mental Health and Addictions and your local MPP(s),

Thank you for your kind consideration of this matter. If you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact me at 1-800-252-1837, or by email at info@nationalchronicpainsociety.org. You may also contact me through Elias Diamantopoulos of GTA Strategies at (416) 499-4588 ext. 6, or at elias@gtastrategies.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Leeann Corbeil".

Leeann Corbeil, Executive Director
National Chronic Pain Society