

Opioids: Partnering in Practice

Helping to further inform practitioners on opioid use disorder and the safe prescribing of opioids



As part of its ongoing commitment to evidence-informed practices and decision-making, the Central West LHIN - in partnership with OntarioMD, the Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) and Health Quality Ontario (HQO) – was pleased to recently host *Opioids: Partnering in Practice*, an opportunity to further inform practitioners from various areas of practice on opioid use disorder and the safe prescribing of opioids among patients.

There were 1,053 opioid-related deaths in Ontario from January to October 2017, compared with 694 during the same time period in 2016 -- this represents a 52 per cent increase. In a province where one in seven Ontarians fills a prescription for opioids every year, the opioid crisis in Ontario is a tragic and growing issue, one that health care professionals, in all areas of practice, are continuing to work diligently to combat.

Recognizing that a crisis of this magnitude requires an integrated approach to care coordination, over 35 primary care physicians, pharmacists, system navigators and other health care professionals were in attendance where Dr. Tamara Wallington, VP Clinical, Central West LHIN, was pleased to welcome guest speakers Dr. David Kaplan, Provincial Clinical Lead, Primary Care at Health Quality Ontario and Dr. Darren Larsen, OntarioMD's Chief Medical Information Officer. Joining Drs. Kaplan and Larsen was Tam Truong, a nurse practitioner from CMHA Peel Dufferin.

Held at the new Peel Memorial Centre for Integrated Health and Wellness, practitioners learned more about HQO's *MyPractice - Primary Care Report*, HQO's quality standards related to Opioid Use Disorder and Opioid Prescribing for Acute and Chronic Pain, OntarioMD services that support safe opioid prescribing, and CMHA resources for opioid use disorder. In addition, attendees were provided with an important overview of partnered efforts for the safe prescribing of opioids including use of EMRs. Please visit the [Central West LHIN Website](#) for a copy of the keynote presentations.

While practitioners are often faced with the challenges of treating patients with complex disorders and few resources, more appropriate prescribing is part of the solution. *Opioids: Partnering in Practice* helped to bridge the gap, providing attendees with valuable information related to data access, tools and supports. Please visit [HQO's Website](#) for more information and access to the tools and resources mentioned during the presentations.