

## Safer Opioid Supply Community of Practice Newsletter

June 2021

### Key Meeting Themes

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Meeting minutes can be found in the [meeting notes and resources folder](#) on the [SOS Google Drive](#)

#### [May 6](#)

- Drug shortages conversation with Health Canada
- Strategies for managing shortages
- Benzo dependency
- Lack of resources for therapy

#### [May 13](#)

- Toxic supply, overdose & trauma
- Methadone & Methadose

#### [May 20](#)

- Pilot project expansion & program models
- Pharmacy outreach & connecting with pharmacies
- Program criteria & triaging

#### [May 27](#)

- Drug Checking Projects in Canada - Centre for Drug Policy and Evaluation; BC Centre for Substance Use; Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project – Link to the video is in the folder.

### Research

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We encourage CoP members to email [karen.cook@amho.ca](mailto:karen.cook@amho.ca) with submissions to include. Content examples: community led projects, peer reviewed articles, grey literature, government publications, etc.

- Kolla and Strike. 2020. [Practices of care among people who buy, use, and sell drugs in community settings](#)
- Waterloo Region Crime Prevention Council. 2021: [\(Un\) Safe](#)

### Featured Resources

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- [Patch-For-Patch Fentanyl Return Program: Fact Sheet](#)
- [Drug Analysis Service](#)
- [Toronto's Drug Checking Service](#)
- [What's in Toronto's drug supply? Results from sample checked by Toronto's drug checking service: January 1-December 31, 2020](#)
- [Vancouver Island Drug Checking Project](#)
- [BCCSU Drug Checking Project](#)

## Questions

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We encourage CoP members to submit questions to [safersupplyon@gmail.com](mailto:safersupplyon@gmail.com) . Organizers will bring questions and/or answers to meetings as well as circulate a brief summary in following newsletter.

- What are some events or topics you would like the organizers to pursue in the future?

## News

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- [Federal government to fund safer drug supply pilot project in Peterborough](#)
- [Government of Canada supports safer supply project for people with opioid use disorder in Guelph](#)

## Successes and stresses

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- **Drug shortages:** You can monitor drug shortages by going to [Health Canada's Drug Shortages Website](#). In May, Health Canada's Office of Controlled Substances and Drug Shortages Unit met with pharmaceutical reps from Ethypharm, Purdue, and BGP as well as the Canadian Society for Addictions Medicine and a representative of the SOS Community of Practice to discuss current and projected demand and the critical need to ensure supply. The Drug Shortages Unit is looking into ways of mitigating both current shortages as well as prevent future shortages. Currently, the following shortages exist: *Dilaudid 8 mg (anticipated resolution date: June 6), Kadian 50 mg (anticipated resolution date: October 19), Kadian 100 mg (anticipated shortage: June 2 – August 24), Kadian 20 mg (anticipated shortage: July 21-August 24). M-Eslon 100mg and 200 mg have been on shortage but that shortage was to be resolved by May 31<sup>st</sup>.* Periodically, we will be reaching out to programs and prescribers to provide approximate numbers of clients who are prescribed these drugs and the average doses. We can provide these numbers to help BGP, Ethypharm, and Purdue forecast demand.

## Upcoming Events

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### SoS Interdisciplinary Hot Topic Meetings

- June 24<sup>th</sup>, Prepping/Cooking Pills PWLE Panel