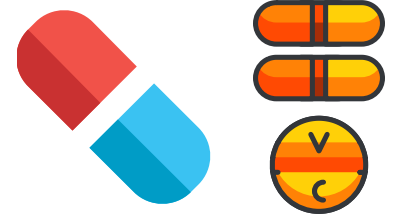


Accessing a Safe Supply

As of March 2021, less than 4% of eligible British Columbians have been successful in accessing pharmaceutical alternatives to the poisoned drug supply. Meanwhile, 5.5 British Columbians die every day by overdose.



Supporting access to a Safe Supply can be challenging. The following guide can help:

Verify Eligibility

- Using illicit substances
- At risk of withdrawal
- At risk of cravings
- At risk of overdose



1

Assess

- Substance use history
- Recent overdoses
- Physical/mental health status

Ask them what they need. Focus on their priorities.

2

Connect to MD

- Do they have a family doctor? Start there.
- Contact local OAT clinics.
- If you are a health care provider, contact the **Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line** at 778-945-7619



3

Walk Alongside

Do not expect the individual to contact their doctor on their own. This can be traumatic. Offer to accompany, or to phone with the individual.



4

Use a person-centered approach.



Challenge Paternalism

- Advocate
- Safe supply should match the needs of each unique individual
- Consider right dose and type
- Request carries
- The BCCSU guidance documents are only recommendations

5

Liaise w/ Pharmacy

- Check that the pharmacy has received the prescription
- Verify dose, type, and dispensing details
- Verify pharmacy hours of operation
- Offer to accompany to the pharmacy

6

Educate & Offer

- Educate on safer consumption and harm reduction
- Offer harm reduction supplies and naloxone
- Co-create an overdose safety plan
- Offer witnessed consumption



7

Follow Up

- Make a plan to follow up regularly
- Know next doctor's appointment
- Re-assess dose requirements
- Identify barriers to access



8

Safe supply is a harm reduction tool, not a withdrawal management tool.

Dosing should reflect the many reasons people take drugs, including to feel good.

155 British Columbians died by overdose in February 2021 - broader access to safe supply is urgently needed.