

Opioid & Controlled-Substance Prescriptions at Walk-In Visits

Walk-in visits at Hope Health Central do not include new prescriptions or refills for opioids or other controlled substances — including oxycodone, fentanyl, benzodiazepines, and stimulants. This isn't a judgment about you or your pain. It's a safety standard grounded in the prescribing rules every Ontario physician follows.

WHY THIS IS OUR POLICY

- 1. Full history required.** Before prescribing a narcotic or controlled substance, Ontario's prescribing standards require reviewing the patient's prescription history — something a first walk-in visit can't reliably do.¹
- 2. These drugs are monitored.** Ontario logs every monitored-drug prescription to catch patients receiving the same medication from more than one prescriber — a pattern linked to accidental overdose.²
- 3. Guidelines call for one prescriber.** Canada's opioid-therapy guideline directs prescribers to coordinate with a patient's own physician and follow their response over time.³
- 4. Walk-in care complements, not replaces.** Ontario's walk-in-practice standards are built to support your relationship with a primary care provider — not substitute for it.⁴

WHAT TO DO INSTEAD

- **Have a family doctor?** Contact them directly — they know your history and can prescribe safely.
- **Urgent or life-threatening?** Go to the nearest emergency department.
- **Need support with substance use?** ConnexOntario offers free, confidential help, 24/7 — 1-866-531-2600 · connexontario.ca

REFERENCES

1. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, *Prescribing Drugs* policy (Provision 32). cpso.on.ca
2. Government of Ontario, Narcotics Monitoring System, under the Narcotics Safety and Awareness Act, 2010. ontario.ca
3. Busse JW, Craigie S, Juurlink DN, et al. Guideline for opioid therapy and chronic noncancer pain. *CMAJ*. 2017;189(18):E659–E666.
4. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, *Walk-in Clinics* policy. cpso.on.ca