

**SOUTHWEST ONTARIO ABORIGINAL HEALTH ACCESS CENTRE
ORGANIZATIONAL POLICIES AND PROCEDURES**

SUBJECT: <u>PRIMARY CARE</u>	POLICY/ PROCEDURE:
POLICY & PROCEDURES: PRESCRIBING OF NARCOTICS AND SEDATIVES	PC - 210
APPROVAL:	PAGE 1 of 1
DATE OF APPROVAL:	
REVIEW AND REVISION DATES:	

POLICY:

1. In keeping with SOAHAC's Mission Statement and to assist the clients to improve their quality of health and to live in a more balanced state of well-being narcotics will be prescribed by the physicians under certain circumstances. *
2. The physicians will work closely with the client and/or their families to determine what options are available or should be explored to assist the client.
3. Internal referrals include referrals to the Traditional Healing program and to the Mental Health program.
4. When deemed appropriate external referrals will be made on behalf of the client. These referrals will be discussed and agreed upon with the client.

PROCEDURE:

1. All clients will be informed at the time of registration with SOAHAC that narcotics will be prescribed only under certain circumstances.
2. Should the issue of pain management become a part of service delivery to the client, all health professionals will work with the client and/or their family to investigate other pain management options.
3. Documentation within the client chart must take place regarding all discussions and referrals for pain management.

* Patients in need of pain medication due to:

- Cancer
- Palliative Care
- Acute illness (up to three months duration) or
- Chronic pain who have already been assessed by the Pain Management Clinic and narcotic medication has been advised by the specialist at the clinic
May be prescribed narcotics at the discretion of the attending family physician.