

January 31, 2019

Rev Daniel Cho
Presbyterian Church in Canada
50 Wynford Drive
Toronto, ON M3C 1J7
c/o David De Sera email : ddisera@presbyterian.ca

Dear Reverend Cho:


Please accept our apologies for the delay in responding to your letter of November 2, 2018. We greatly appreciate the work the churches within the Presbyterian Church in Canada are doing to support local communities in this time of great concern regarding the opioid crisis. The increasing rates of overdoses and overdose deaths require a multi-faceted approach involving greater increase in access to treatment and harm reduction, as well as a focus on prevention among higher risk populations. Governments, professional groups and organizations, including from civil society, play very important roles to address different dimensions.

Thank you for your question regarding CMA's Guidelines for Physicians in Interaction with Industry. The CMA is a national policy and advocacy organization and does not exercise regulatory or educational functions related to medical practice, so it is difficult to assess the impact of these guidelines on physician practice. CMA referenced this guideline in our submission to Health Canada on the restriction of the marketing and advertising of opioids to health professionals, and it can be viewed at this link:
<http://policybase.cma.ca/dbtw-wpd/Briefpdf/BR2018-13.pdf> .

It was also referenced by the College of Family Physicians of Canada in their submission to this consultation. We do know that CMA policies are consulted by individual practicing physicians, as well as many medical organizations involved in regulation and education and the undergraduate and post graduate levels.

Please let us know if there is anything further that we can be of assistance.

Sincerely,



Laurent Marcoux, MD, MSc
Past President

c.c.: Dr. Gigi Osler, President, Canadian Medical Association