

SASKATCHEWAN CITIZENS' CHARTER OF RIGHTS

FOR

PAIN MANAGEMENT

1. Citizens have a right to be as pain-free as is safely and professionally possible, with any indication of pain:
 - A. taken seriously and compassionately by health professionals; and
 - B. resulting in standardized and comprehensive management of the pain.
2. Citizens have a right to expect that the health system will standardize, evaluate, and continually improve pain management practices using interdisciplinary and collaborative strategies.
3. Citizens have a right to expect health professionals will provide optimum information and options to most effectively manage acute and chronic pain.
4. Citizens have a right to have treatment plans adjusted in a timely manner if their pain is not relieved.
5. Citizens have a right to timely access to professional guidance to help them with information and needed resources for the prevention and management of pain.
6. Citizens have a right to a holistic, culturally appropriate approach to pain management.
7. Citizens have a right to actively participate in their pain management.
8. Infants, children, elderly and those with altered cognitive functioning have a right to equitable pain management.
9. Citizens have a right to expect that health professionals are responsible:
 - A. to be knowledgeable about pain and evidence-based practices to minimize pain;
 - B. to create and maintain an optimized care plan in a highly interdisciplinary manner;
 - C. to engage in open communication with their clients while maintaining privacy and dignity;
 - D. to treat persistent pain as a disease, not a symptom;
 - E. to prescribe opioids and other controlled drugs in an ethically and legally appropriate manner; and
 - F. to provide professional care supported by current research and quality improvement, policy, procedure, and protocols.

References:

1. Canadian Pain Coalition Charter
2. American Academy of Pain Medicine (2004)
3. Australian and New Zealand College of Anaesthetists (2008)
4. Draft Australian National Pain Strategy (2009)
5. ICPCN Charter of Rights for Life Limited and Life Threatened Children (2002)