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Date: September 11, 2023

Resolution 2024-22: OHIP Coverage for Chronic Pain Treatments

Background:

WHEREAS the Ontario College of physicians and Surgeons has made a decision that will lead more people who suffer from chronic pain to turn to opioids to alleviate their pain; and

WHEREAS the College is targeting community pain clinics by requiring the use of ultrasound technology in the administration of nerve block injections by licensed physicians. This requirement will increase the time it takes to administer the nerve block and, therefore, reduce the number of patients a physician can see in a day; and

WHEREAS the Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) is proposing to reduce coverage for several vital healthcare services, including a drastic reduction in the number and frequency of nerve block injections a patient can receive; and

WHEREAS these changes have been proposed without any consultation with pain management medical professionals or with their patients; and

WHEREAS this cut will force chronic pain clinics to shut down, putting a greater strain on family physicians and emergency rooms; and

WHEREAS with the reduction in the number of nerve blocks being administered, many patients, looking for pain relief, will turn to overcrowded emergency rooms, opioid prescriptions from doctors or opioid street drugs.

Recommendation:

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT the NOMA request that the Government of Ontario maintain OHIP coverage for chronic pain treatments and continue to provide much-needed care for the people of Ontario.

Moved By: Lisa Teeple, Councillor of Emo

Seconded By: Alex Crane, Councillor of O'Connor

CARRIED

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wendy Landry".

President