

November 21, 2012

The Honourable Leona Aglukkaq, PC, MP
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) found your recent announcement regarding the release of generic forms of OxyContin discouraging.

On November 13, 2012, the CFPC's National Board of Directors approved the following statement:

"The CFPC expresses profound concern that any changes that lead to an increase in the Canadian supply of sustained release oxycodone will contribute to further ongoing abuse of this drug and all of the accompanying negative health and social consequences. We call for a comprehensive approach to increase research and education initiatives surrounding appropriate and effective treatment strategies for patients who suffer from chronic pain."

While we recognize that drug formulary approval falls within provincial jurisdiction, we must work together to address the serious health problems associated with oxycodone addiction. It was our hope that you would have recognized the importance of delaying the process leading to the approval of the release of generic forms of OxyContin while working on tightening licensing rules, as you initially announced you would do. The federal government's leadership in this important health issue is critical.

Sincerely,



Marie-Dominique Beaulieu, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President

cc: Provincial and Territorial Health Ministers
Ms. Glenda Yeates, Deputy Minister, Health Canada
Ms. Libby Davies, MP
Dr. Hedy Fry, MP
Ms. Elizabeth May, MP