

FRASER HEALTH SELECTS PROPOSED SITES FOR SUPERVISED CONSUMPTION IN SURREY AND INCREASES ADDICTIONS TREATMENT Overdose Update #4

Supervised Consumption Services

Supervised consumption services provide a safe, clean space for a person to use substances under the supervision of a health care professional, who may assist in the event of an emergency such as a drug overdose. They also provide opportunities for health care providers to engage a person in other services such as primary care and treatment, if they choose to access them.

Opioid Substitution Treatment

Opioid substitution treatment supplies people who use substances with a prescribed replacement medicine, such as methadone or suboxone. The medication is administered orally in a supervised clinical setting to help relieve symptoms of Opioid Use Disorder.

A physician works with a patient to determine which of the two treatments will be most effective to treat their opioid addiction. These programs have been shown to reduce illicit opioid use, HIV risk behaviours, and death from overdose. The two proposed sites will double the current capacity for Fraser Health's provision of opioid substitution treatment in Surrey to a total of 380 people.

- Combining services allows health care providers to build relationships and engage people in ongoing health services. If a client is willing, these services can include addiction treatment.
- Some individuals who are likely to use supervised consumption services are already attending the proposed sites for other health services.
- Once a person begins opioid substitution treatment, they can begin to stabilize their life. This may include securing housing if they are homeless, a job if they are unemployed, etc.

For more information, please visit the Fraser Health overdose online hub at fraserhealth.ca/overdose.

Supervised Consumption Services

- Distribution of supplies for safer injection
- Education on safe injection technique and infection prevention
- Overdose prevention and intervention
- Medical and counselling services
- Referrals to substance use treatment
- Connection to housing and other support services.

Benefits

- Reduce overdose death and save lives
- Reduce sharing of needles that cause HIV and hepatitis C
- Increased use of detox and addiction treatment services
- Reduce public drug use
- Reduce the numbers of inappropriately discarded needles
- Do not contribute to increased crime in the surrounding area

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