

November 28, 2013

The Honourable Rona Ambrose, PC, MP
Minister of Health
House of Commons
Ottawa, ON K1A 0A6

Dear Minister:

The College of Family Physicians of Canada (CFPC) wishes to strongly encourage you and Health Canada to reconsider your decision to recently approve generic oxycodone.

On November 21, 2012 we wrote a letter to the previous Health Minister indicating concerns over the adverse impact of introducing this drug. And we reiterated our concerns yesterday to the Standing Committee on Health during its hearings on prescription drug misuse and abuse.

Last year, 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."

We must work together to address the serious health problems associated with oxycodone addiction. It was our hope that in examining this issue you would have recognized the detrimental effect of the widespread availability of the generic oxycodone. The federal government's leadership in tightening the rules on this important health issue is critical.

We hope that we can assist you in any way to protect the health and safety of Canadians.

Sincerely,



Kathy Lawrence, MD, CCFP, FCFP
President

cc: Mr. George Da Pont, Deputy Minister, Health Canada