



## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **Access to Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST) in Vancouver**

#### **I am on Opioid Substitution Therapy (OST). Can I get the medication while in Vancouver?**

Conference participants who are on OST should be prepared to bring a sufficient supply of medication to cover the entire duration of their time in Vancouver.

#### **Which drugs are available in Vancouver and in which form?**

Pharmacies in Vancouver are able to dispense Methadone and Buprenorphine (Subutex®, Suboxone®) with a prescription from a Canadian physician. An individual on these medications may be able to have these medications dispensed by a local pharmacy if this has been pre-arranged by their physician in their home country.

For more information about locating a providing physician/clinic in Canada, please visit: <http://www.indro-online.de/canada.htm>.

#### **Can I carry Methadone or Buprenorphine with me to Canada?**

Yes. Any prescribed medication should be carried in its original packaging, together with the medical prescription, and a brief note from their respective doctor, explaining the reason for the medication. This letter should also specify the name, address and telephone/fax number of the foreign physician, the name and address of the patient while in Canada, the dates of travel, the daily dosage of methadone and any other pertinent medical information. It is advised to keep all medication in carry-on baggage. Federal regulations permit a maximum of a 30-day supply upon entry into Canada.

#### **Is there a drug counseling centre near the Vancouver Convention Centre?**

Vancouver does not have traditional drug counseling centres.

#### **What should I do if I relapse?**

Individuals on OST with a supply of medication should not be expected to relapse. However, should this occur, individuals are to contact the First Aid Centre at the conference venue immediately who will be able to link persons with the most appropriate services.

**Contact information for emergency assistance:**

The Vancouver Convention Centre has an Occupational First Aid Attendant (OFA) on duty 24 hours a day in each building and two fully equipped first aid rooms. Vancouver Convention Centre security personnel are trained as first responders in fire/safety and first aid emergencies including the use of on-site defibrillators.

For general emergencies near the convention centre, call: **604-647-7500**. For first aid assistance, call: **604-647-7299** from any cell phone, or contact Vancouver Convention Centre personnel.

An individual in a crisis related to their substance abuse while in Vancouver should go to an emergency room. The closest emergency room to the Vancouver Convention Centre is located at St. Paul's Hospital, 1081 Burrard Street, Vancouver, BC, V6Z 1Y6; phone: **604-682-2344**.

Insite, the legal supervised injection site, can also be contacted for substance abuse-related emergencies. Insite is open seven days a week from 10am-4pm and located at 139 Hastings Street East, Vancouver, B.C. V6A 1N5; phone: **604-687-7483**.

For all emergencies anywhere in Canada, the number to call is **911** from any landline or cell phone.