

SURkit: A Best Practice Substance Use Response Toolkit for Emergency Departments

V1 – May 2023



What is SURkit?

SURkit is part of VCH and PHC's regional strategy to help reduce drug toxicity deaths. SURkit is a best practice Substance Use Response toolkit that brings together the resources—both physical and non-physical—needed by emergency department (ED) staff to deliver quality care to people who use substances.

SURkit's three-pronged approach to uniform best practice substance use care consists of:



Harm Reduction

- Take-home naloxone kits
- Safer use supplies
- Information for patients and staff



Opioid Agonist Therapy

- Guidelines for dispensing missed doses in Eds
- Guidelines for OAT starts in ED
- Standardized buprenorphine/naloxone to-go (BTG) packs



Improving Transition of Care

- Guidelines and contact information for outreach referrals
- Pathway to community SU services for follow-up care
- More options and instructions for next day follow-up

When should SURkit be implemented?

SURkit implementation timelines will vary by ED, depending on site readiness and other factors. The goal is for all VCH and PHC EDs to implement SURkit over the course of 2023 and 2024. We anticipate that sites may need six to nine months to implement SURkit.

Staff resources

In an effort to destigmatize the issue of substance use, ED staff will ask patients about substance use in a non-judgemental manner, and let patients know that this is part of routine best practice emergency care for all patients.

Scan the QR code for access to the following:

- VCH guidelines
- Overdose prevention/harm reduction tools
- Educational resources
- Clinical resources
- Information on substance use services
- Information on overdose prevention/harm reduction services



SCAN ME

If you have questions or suggestions regarding SURkit, please email regionaladdictionprogram@vch.ca or contact someone on the SURkit implementation team at your site.