

EMERGENT COVID RESOLUTIONS

1. Resolution

REMOVING AGEISM IN THE TREATMENT OF PATIENTS DURING CRITICAL HEALTH CRISES/PANDEMICS

Be it resolved that SSAI lobby the Saskatchewan government and Ministry of Health to develop clear criteria to enable doctors and health care workers to judiciously provide medical treatment for patients without bias regarding age.

BACKGROUND:

- 1. As witnessed with Covid 19 there is a dire shortage of essential medical equipment required for the treatment of affected patients - ie. Tests, ventilators, masks, gloves, sanitary wipes, available beds, etc.**
- 2. Health care workers are forced to make decisions as to whom the required medical equipment/materials will or will not be provided.**
- 3. Resilience of a patient is not necessarily determined by age.**
- 4. Seniors tend to be abandoned sooner than others in situations which require critical decisions.**
- 5. Other provinces - ie Ontario - are being proactive in developing criteria.**

2. Resolution

ESTABLISHING INFECTION SECURITY AT LONG-TERM CARE, NURSING HOMES & HOSPITALS.

Be it resolved that SSAI lobby the Saskatchewan government and Ministry of Health to establish infection security facilities and practises at the entrances to all long-term care, nursing home, seniors care and hospital facilities across Saskatchewan

BACKGROUND:

- 1. It has been witnessed with this current covid 19 pandemic that long-term care and nursing homes become outbreak hotspots once an infection is permitted to be brought into the facilities.**
- 2. Health care workers - paid and volunteer - who work in more than one facility can transfer the infection if not screened prior to entering the workplace.**
- 3. Infection concerns have reached the point where families are removing elderly family members from Long Term care facilities as an emergent precaution.**
- 4. Normally hospitals do not have any infection screening at entrances for workers or visitors during non-pandemic events, but do have high concentrations of super-germs.**
- 5. Pig barn operators in Saskatchewan have had infection screening practises in place to reduce the possible transfer of pathogenic materials by workers/visitors at the barn**

facilities

3. Resolution

PROVIDING SUPPORT (pharmaceutical) FOR SENIORS DURING THE COVID PANDEMIC EVENT

Be it resolved that SSAI lobby the Saskatchewan government and Ministry of Health to pass the required legislation to make it mandatory for pharmacies to provide three (3) month prescriptions during the restrictive period of Covid 19 across Saskatchewan.

BACKGROUND:

- 1. At this time when costs are increasing and there is no additional financial support for seniors, the one month prescription limitation is tripling the cost of essential medications for seniors.**
- 2. Seniors on fixed income are not able to access any of the federal or provincial income support programs in place to assist families with living expenses.**
- 3. Monthly trips to the pharmacy for medication increase the chances for exposure.**
- 4. The stress, anxiety level due to the crisis and isolation is already placing the health of seniors at risk**

PERSONAL STORY 1

It is very sad that the pharmacist association is using the crisis in Canada and around the world to claim there is a shortage of medicines. I acknowledge that there are shortages in some categories however, advising pharmacists to not allow 3 month prescription at a time for seniors will create enormous stress on our finances along with the stress that the Corona virus is already causing. Between my wife and I our current cost of prescription is around \$2000 to \$2400 per year (based on purchasing 3 months at a time. By not allowing us to purchase the 3 months our cost per year will increase to \$6000 to \$7200 per year. Money we just don't have.

At this point we must decide which prescriptions we can no longer afford. Also forcing us to increase our exposure to the public by having to pick up more often, at a time seniors are the most vulnerable.

**Yours Truly
Peter VanderStelt**

PERSONAL STORY 2

I am concerned about the policy Saskatchewan Health has put in place for prescription renewals during the Covid19 pandemic. We are no longer allowed to refill more than one month at a time. This policy puts a major hardship on seniors who subsist on their pensions as a one month refill now costs the same as a three month refill and that is with the senior supplement.

For myself this runs to almost \$90.00 a month instead of for three as the dispensing fee stays the same whether you get one month or three. I am grateful to my pharmacist for getting me exemptions on the two most expensive ones that run over \$100 each or I would not be able to afford them.

When I called Sask Health I was told this was put in place to stop people from stockpiling meds and causing a shortage for others - this makes no sense to me as you cannot stockpile in any event as three months is the maximum allowed and you cannot go back and get refills a week after getting refills (if that makes any sense to you.)

I am sure I am not the only one who has been put into this position by this policy and I would like to see it removed or some of us will be forced to pick and choose which meds are the most important.

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