A GUIDE TO THE USE OF STRONG OPIOIDS IN CHRONIC NON-CANCER PAIN

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Malaysian Association for the Study of Pain
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PREFACE

These recommendations were written by a subcommittee appointed by the Malaysian Association for the Study of Pain (MASP). Members of the committee studied several documents on this subject available from around the world (see references), and this final document is the result of several meetings and discussions. The aim of the document is to provide a guide on appropriate use of strong opioids for chronic non-cancer pain to maximise the benefits of opioids in relieving pain and improving function, while minimizing the potential risks of opioid abuse and addiction.

We hope that this document will result in:

- increased awareness among healthcare providers about the current issues involving opioids and non-cancer pain
- improved awareness of opioid benefits and risks among patients and healthcare providers
- improved understanding by patients regarding their responsibilities when taking opioid medications, and
- reduced opioid abuse and diversion

This document may be used by healthcare professionals involved in the management of patients with chronic non-cancer pain, including members of the multidisciplinary team who may not actually prescribe these drugs, with the aim of having a common understanding regarding the indications and the goals of long term opioid therapy for patients with non-cancer pain.

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