

Brantford Brant Safer Opioid Supply Program Criteria & Referral Process

What is the SOS program?

The Brantford Brant Safer Opioid Supply (BBSOS) program aims to reduce harms to participants and the overall Brantford Brant community who are impacted by the illicit drug supply. This program supplies patients with pharmaceutical opioids for use, to help reduce dependence on the unpredictable street supply. This decreases harm, death and encourages positive social and health outcomes for the entire community and the individual.

Who can be considered for the program?

Participants will be triaged into the program on a case-by-case basis dependent on risk factors as well as inclusion and exclusion criteria.

Inclusion criteria for the BBSOS program includes the following:

- **Regular use of illicit opioids**
- **Positive urine drug screen to confirm recent opioid use (on intake)**
- Poor psychosocial functioning
- High risk of overdose and/or death as a result of overdose
- **Capacity to give informed consent**
- Previously unsuccessful/not currently interested in OAT
- Health complications related to substance use (skin infections, endocarditis, HIV, HCV, etc).

Please note program participants do not have to meet **all above criteria to be accepted into SOS. Required criteria are indicated in bold text.*

What are the benefits of the BBSOS program?

- Decreased use of toxic street supply
- Access to peer support
- Improved overall wellbeing
- Decreased risk of overdose/death
- Access to regular healthcare and social supports, including primary care

What is the referral process?

Referrals to the BBSOS program are made by completing the referral form and faxing/emailing or dropping it off to BBSOS for staff to review.

Step 1: Complete the BBSOS referral form

Complete the referral form either with your client or yourself (if self-referring). This form captures a brief history of drug use, overdose history and current OAT prescriptions (if any) as well as important demographic information.

Step 2: Fax/e-mail completed referral form/ or drop off at GRCHC

Please send completed referral to the BBSOS Grand River CHC via fax or email, Attn: Marie Ramsay

Fax: 519-754-0727

Email: BBSOS@grchc.ca

Please ensure to include contact information for both the participant and the referring provider (if applicable).

Step 3: Client is approved for BBSOS program; UDS and appointment with prescriber required

- After receiving and reviewing the completed referral, we will contact you to let you know if the applicant has been accepted into the BBSOS program.
- If accepted into the program, a Urine Drug Screen (UDS) and baseline labwork are a requirement at intake and we will arrange a time for both this and an initial appointment with our Nurse Practitioner.

Step 4: Client approved to start BBSOS

- If our Nurse Practitioner decides that the participant is eligible for safer supply, then we will start them on the program.
- Client will be informed and we will arrange to start them on safer supply.
- New intake appointments will be completed Monday-Wednesday to allow for appropriate time for titration. ***Please note that the first SOS appointment will take approx. 1-1.5 hours.***