



Fair Price Pharma Inhalation Diacetylmorphine Operational Guide

The purpose of this document is to provide operational guidance to health authorities, medical practices, clinics, co-ops, OPS, NGO, SIS, etc. who wish to provide Fair Price Pharma (FPP) inhalable diacetylmorphine (DAM) to their clients. Note this is available in all five BC health regions and FNHA.

The Parties

1. **Sponsor** = your health authority, medical practice, clinic, co-op, OPS, NGO, SIS, or similar agency wishing to make pharmaceutical grade DAM accessible to your clients
2. **Client** = a client of the Sponsor who will benefit from a safe supply of DAM
3. **FPP** = Fair Price Pharma
4. **Prescriber**¹ = physician or nurse practitioner to prescribe DAM for clients whom it will benefit

The Product

The initial product from FPP is inhalable DAM base, provided in sprinkle caps² as pictured below.

- each sprinkle cap contains diacetylmorphine base powder in a 3:1 mixture with caffeine³
- four doses of DAM are available: 75mg, 100mg, 150mg and 200mg
- the medication can be stored at room temperature for up to 6 months
- unlike street heroin, diacetylmorphine base only requires regular lighters for heating

FPP will also supply immediate release and sustained release oral diacetylmorphine hydrochloride capsules after inhalable DAM distribution begins.

The Legal and Regulatory Situation

Compounding, as defined by Health Canada Policy POL-0051³, is an activity that health professionals undertake to provide a customized therapeutic solution to improve patient care without duplicating an approved drug product. When there is no supply of a commercially available product and the healthcare professional has determined a medical need for this product, the product may be compounded during the period of no supply. There is no inhalable DAM product commercially available in Canada at present. While FPP is developing one, this will not be ready for at least 18 months. Compounding of inhalable DAM does **not** require a Health Canada commercial license, a Drug Identification Number (DIN) or a Section 56 exemption.



¹ In the absence of a Section 56 Exemption for a Cooperative or Compassion Club model, or a broader-based public health prescription model, individual prescriptions will be required

² Sprinkle caps are designed to be easily opened and emptied

³ This formulation has been demonstrated to be highly effective in studies in the Netherlands

⁴ <https://www.canada.ca/en/health-canada/services/drugs-health-products/compliance-enforcement/good-manufacturing-practices/guidance-documents/policy-manufacturing-compounding-drug-products.html#a51>; FPP will comply with all aspects of Health Canada POL-0051.



I am reaching out to you, Ministers of Health, regulators of health professions and organizations representing health care practitioners, to ask you to do all you can to help provide people who use drugs with a full spectrum of options for accessing medication, depending on their individual circumstances, that will help them avoid the increased risks from the toxic drug supply. This includes your support for programs that provide greater access to a safer, pharmaceutical-grade alternative to the toxic street supply.

*The Honourable Patty Hajdu, Minister of Health of Canada
August 2020*

Steps for a Sponsor to get Started

The following are steps for a sponsor to get started:

- Contact FPP if you have not already done so at: info@fairpricepharma.ca
- Identify clients who will benefit from a safe supply of inhalable DAM
- Identify prescribers who can prescribe the medication to these clients
- Identify one or more local pharmacies to process and fill the prescriptions
- Obtain funds for an initial round of dispensing

Operations

The following steps will occur on a regular basis for operations:

1. The Prescriptions will identify:
 - a. The patient
 - b. The prescriber
 - c. Instructions for use
 - d. Instructions on where to deliver medication
2. The prescriber will forward prescriptions to the client's pharmacy or the Sponsor's designated pharmacy
3. FPP will produce, package and provide a supply of medication to the identified pharmacy
4. Because of the extended shelf-life of the medication, shipments do not have to be repeated daily and can be done as deemed appropriate (e.g. on a weekly, bi-weekly or monthly basis) throughout BC
5. FPP will invoice the Sponsor monthly for the medication provided as per costs below

Costs (2021-22)

Diacetylmorphine Base for INHALATION (3:1 ratio with caffeine)

DAM Base	Caffeine	Price	Dispensing Fee
75 mg	25 mg	\$5.25	\$0
100 mg	33 mg	\$7.00	\$0
150 mg	50 mg	\$10.50	\$0
200 mg	67 mg	\$14.00	\$0

Financing Models

The BC Ministry of Health is not currently funding this proven treatment. Other sources of funding are:

- Health Authority funds
- Federal SUAP grants
- Donor funds
- User Pay Cost Recovery Models (several community groups of PWUD have expressed a willingness to pay in the absence of government support)