

Dispensing Flowchart for Opiate Replacement Therapy – Methadone and Buprenorphine

Tayside Substance Misuse Services Pharmacy Team



Dispensing Flowchart for Opiate Replacement Therapy – Methadone and Buprenorphine
Tayside Substance Misuse Services Pharmacy Team

Important missed dose information

It is good practice is to check for any patients that missed doses on the day before at the start of the day. This will highlight any patients that may need particular attention.

If the patient has missed doses on 2 consecutive days or frequent one off doses.

- Use your clinical judgement and supply today's dose if the patient appears well.
- Please inform the service as it may be an indication that the patient needs more support during a period of instability. If we have this information early then we can put support in place.
- Keep a record of this contact in the patients' file/PMR record as it builds a picture of stability.

When the patient has missed doses on 3 consecutive days

- **INFORM THE SERVICE TODAY (REGARDLESS IF THE PATIENT ATTENDS THE PHARMACY OR NOT)**
- We need to check that the patient is safe and well. The key worker will try to contact the patient and if we are unable to reach the patient we will request that the police carry out a welfare check.
- If this occurs during a weekend then please call the service on Monday morning.
- Please remember to keep a record of this contact in the patients' file/PMR record.

If you have a new prescription for a new patient that does not attend

- Transferring to a new environment (e.g. liberation from prison, discharge from hospital or moving pharmacies) can be a risky time.
- Please contact the service if a patient does not attend to collect a new prescription after 2 days from the start date.

Dispensing Flowchart for Opiate Replacement Therapy – Methadone and Buprenorphine Tayside Substance Misuse Services Pharmacy Team

***Buprenorphine administration**

Generic, Subutex or Suboxone

1. Offer a drink of water before placing sublingual tablets UNDER the tongue and allowed to dissolve.
2. Ensure patient has taken full dose by checking there is only a chalky residue left (tablets can take 5-10minutes to dissolve, offering water before taking will speed this up)
3. Patients should avoid swallowing or consuming food or drink until the sublingual tablet is completely dissolved.

Espranor (oral lyophilisate)

1. Offer a drink of water to moisten oral mucosa.
2. The patient should remove from foil and immediately place the oral lyophilisate ON the tongue with dry finger until it dispersed (15 seconds).
3. Swallowing should be avoided for 2 minutes and consuming food and drink for 5 minutes after administration.

Espranor is NOT interchangeable with other buprenorphine products due to difference in bioavailability

Contact Information

- Dundee, Constitution House - 01382 632 542
- Angus, Gowanlea - 01356 692 870
- Perth & Kinross, Highland House - 01738 474 455

Pharmacy Team for Substance Misuse – 01382 632 542 or 01382 660 111 ext 22596

Pharmacy team email address – tay-uhb.tsmpharmacy@nhs.net

Pharmacy team contacts

- Karen Melville, Lead Pharmacist – 07818 260 249 karen.melville@nhs.net
- Sarah Donaldson, Specialist Pharmacist – 07967 323 195 sarahrdonaldson@nhs.net
- Meggan Foulis, Senior Pharmacy Technician – 07814 763 332 megganfoulis@nhs.net

Custody Suits (to check if a patient received OST doses whilst in their care)

- Custody Nurse, Bell Street, Dundee – 01382 591585

Ninewells switchboard – 01382 660 111

Murray Royal Kinclaven Ward (TSMS) – 01738 414 430