

NHS Greater Glasgow & Clyde Alcohol and Drug Recovery Service

Updated Opioid Replacement Therapy Guidance

Missed Doses

- It is important to contact the relevant prescriber/addiction service when a patient does not attend the pharmacy to collect their opioid replacement therapy (ORT).
- Pharmacies are advised to contact the patient's prescriber/addiction service when a patient has *missed 3 or more* consecutive daily doses of their ORT medication.
- Patients who present at the pharmacy after *3 or more missed doses* should be referred back to the addiction service where any decision to reduce a patient's daily dose will be made by the prescriber.
- The decision whether or not to reduce a patient's daily dose will be based on an individual's current drug use, potential loss of opiate tolerance and other relevant clinical factors.
- If the decision is made to maintain a patient on the same daily dose of ORT, the pharmacy will be contacted by the addiction service to inform them of the clinical decision and directions given for the current prescription to be continued.
- If a patient is regularly missing doses either in a weekly or random pattern, pharmacies are advised to contact the prescriber to inform them of a patient's non compliance to treatment.
- Any concerns regarding a patient or their prescription should be discussed with the patient's prescriber/addiction service.

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