



Dear Prescriber/Dispenser,

Re: Update on MATOD guidelines during COVID-19

In 2020 the Department of Health introduced measures to support continued access to MATOD/pharmacotherapy during the COVID-19 pandemic.

These changes supported longer prescription durations, allowed for more takeaway doses and third-party collection of doses where clinically appropriate.

Since being in place, these guidelines have enabled and supported increased flexibility to reduce the impact of COVID exposure and isolation requirements for consumers and providers and help maintain continuity of pharmacotherapy supply and reduce service disruption.

Please be advised that these measures will continue to remain in place for the duration of Victoria's COVID 19 pandemic response until further notice.

Ongoing guidelines and supporting material

While there has been minimal associated clinical risk with these revised policies, it is important that the [checklist for assessing appropriateness of take away doses](#) is completed and reviewed on a regular basis, as circumstances change.

Please refer to the "Revised Policy for maintenance of opioid dependence", available at the [Department of Health Pharmacotherapy policy page](#) for specific details of the policy changes put in place last year.

For advice around pharmacotherapy scenarios which may fall outside these revised guidelines, please contact your local [Pharmacotherapy Area-Based Network](#) or, outside of regular working hours, the [Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service](#).

Helpful advice for pharmacotherapy clients can be accessed through the [Pharmacotherapy Advocacy, Mediation and Support service](#) and at Harm Reduction Victoria's website.

Next steps

The Department of Health will review these arrangements when it is determined that COVID-19 no longer poses an ongoing risk to timely and safe access to MATOD/pharmacotherapy.

Early notification of any changes to the current arrangements will be provided, including any transitional arrangements where necessary to support those changes.

Kind regards,

AOD Policy team

Mental Health and Wellbeing Division

Department of Health

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