



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Amendments to *Professional Practice Policy #66 Policy Guide – Methadone Maintenance Treatment* (2011 – Revised 2013)

There have been some significant changes to the *Policy Guide for Methadone Maintenance Treatment*. It is important to note that pharmacists are now required to only dispense commercially available **10 mg/ml** oral preparations of methadone.

Topic	Reference in Orientation Guide	Updates
Declaration	Declaration; Page 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> After completing the mandatory training session, and subsequently reading the <i>Guide</i>, pharmacists must log into eServices to complete the '<i>Declaration of Completion and Understanding</i>'.
Methadone Maintenance Treatment Policy Guide	Intro, Page 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised language to reflect changes to <i>PPP-66</i> Referenced <i>Health Professions Act (HPA)</i> Bylaws Schedule Part 1 section 4.
Pharmacy Operating Hours	Principle 1.1.1, Page 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added – “Patients must attend the pharmacy unless exceptional circumstances are provided for under <i>Professional Practice Policy (PPP-71) – Delivery of Methadone Maintenance Treatment.</i>”
Methadone Maintenance Controlled Prescription Form	Principle 2.1.1, Page 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There will now only be one form. Only the Methadone Maintenance Controlled Prescription form will be accepted.
Methadone Maintenance Controlled Prescription Form	Principle 2.1.1, Page 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised the principle to - “The pharmacist must ensure that the patient, as well as themselves, sign the form, in the space indicated on the bottom of the form.”
Methadone Maintenance Controlled Prescription Form	Principle 2.1.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updated to reflect the switch to one controlled prescription form. Added clarification on emergency situations by adding the following: “...guarantees the delivery of the original Methadone Maintenance Controlled Prescription form to the pharmacy the next business day or as soon as possible when the physician is not available.”



Methadone Maintenance Controlled Prescription Forms – Alterations	Principle 2.2.1, Page 6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New - “Alterations to the Methadone Controlled Prescription form are the exception...In the rare circumstance when an alteration is necessary to ensure continuity of care pharmacists must always use due diligence to ensure authenticity and accuracy of the prescription”. • Also outlines two situations when pharmacists are likely to come across alterations. • Replaces the previous 2.2.1.
Accepting Prescriptions	Principle 3.1.1, Page 7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New – this principle was added to reflect the introduction of commercially available 10 mg/ml orally prepared methadone products.
Assessment of a Prescription	Principle 3.2.1, Page 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There will no longer be PINs.
Assessment of a Prescription	Principle 3.2.2, Page 8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Removed mentions of batching as it has never been permitted. • Long-term care facilities and a PharmaNet service interruption are the only exceptions for batching.
Preparing Methadone Prescriptions	Principle 3.3.1, Page 9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Section has been renamed – originally called Preparing and Storing Methadone Solutions. • To adjust to the strength of the commercially available 10 mg/ml products methadone doses must be accurately measured in a calibrated device that minimizes the error rate to no greater than 0.1 ml.
Methadone in Tablet Form for Air Travel	Principle 3.5.1, Page 10	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New - This principle was added to provide pharmacists guidance for patients who require methadone for air travel.
Releasing a Prescriptions	Principle 4.1.1, 4.1.2, 4.1.3, 4.1.4, page 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With the introduction of <i>Professional Practice Policy (PPP-71) – Delivery of Methadone Maintenance Treatment</i>, all mention of home delivery has been omitted.
Releasing a Prescription	Principle 4.1.5, Page 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Added a recommendation to provide water to the patient to rinse the container to ensure the whole dose is ingested.
Releasing a Prescription	Principle 4.1.6, Page 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revised guidelines for take-home doses.
Releasing a Prescription	Principle 4.1.7, Page 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New - Addresses issues of a patient representative picking up a prescription for a patient when they are unable to attend a pharmacy.
Releasing a Prescription	Principle 4.1.8, Page 12	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New – Delivery of methadone is prohibited except as provided for in extraordinary circumstances according to <i>Professional Practice Policy (PPP-71) –</i>



		<i>Delivery of Methadone Maintenance Treatment.</i>
Missed Doses	Principle 5.2.3, Page 13	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added further clarifications on documentation.
Emergency Dosing	Principle 5.7.1, Page 14	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New – Emergency dosing is not recommended, refer to <i>Professional Practice Policy (PPP-31) – Emergency Prescription Refills</i>.
Compounding in Exceptional Circumstances	Principle 6.3.1, Page 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New – Defines what an extraordinary circumstance for compounding is.
Compounding in Exceptional Circumstances	Principle 6.3.2, Page 15	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New – Methadone for maintenance must be at the strength of 10mg/ml to ensure minimization of errors.
Compounding in Exceptional Circumstances	Principle 6.3.3, 6.3.4, 6.3.5, Page 15/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Moved – Originally principle 3.3.2, 3.3.3, and 3.3.4.
PPP-66	Appendix 1, Page 18	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>PPP-66</i> has been updated to reflect the change in strength to 10 mg/ml and implementation timelines.
PPP-71	Appendix 2, Page 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New – The delivery of methadone is prohibited under federal legislation. <i>PPP-71</i> provides clarity for delivery under extraordinary circumstances.
Methadone for Maintenance Prescription Form Guidelines	Appendix 3, Page 23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised – The appendix reflects the new changes to the Methadone Maintenance Controlled Prescription form. this is the only form that will now be use to prescribe methadone.
Drug Interactions	Appendix 7, Page 28	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised - clarification that pharmacists should not be relying on PharmaNet to warn of drug interactions for methadone and PharmaNet is not intended as a substitute for professional judgment.
Compounding Log	Appendix 8, Page 29	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Revised the strength of methadone to 10 mg/ml.
Methadone Part-Fill Accountability Log	Appendix 9, Page 30	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Added an extra column to document delivery address if it is applicable.