

Dispensing Issues

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Disclaimer

In the past two years I have received no payment for services from any agency other than government or academic.

Objective

- To explore dispensing issues from a prescriber's perspective.

VOMITED DOSE

Vomiting of methadone should be witnessed

< 15 minutes replace entire dose

15-30 minutes replace half dose

> 30 minutes no dose replacement

Missed Doses - Official Method

- Missed 1-2 days : Give full dose
- 3-5 days missed: Give 50% dose in AM and 50 in pm X 1 day then full dose
- 6-9 days missed: Start at 50% dose and increase slowly
- 10 + days: start over

Missed Doses What I Do

- Missed three days or less : full dose
 - 3-7 days: start at 50 % and increase by 20 mg every 2 days until full dose
 - 8 or more: start over
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- Remember that both these regimens are for patient who have been on methadone for at two weeks or more; i.e. have some tolerance

Carries

- Loss dose or locked box?
- Unreturned bottles?

BEHAVIOURAL ISSUES

- Impaired or intoxicated?
- Abusive?
- Witnessed or suspected diversion?
- Bad company?