

Supporting patients on Opioid Maintenance Treatment (OMT) during COVID-19

If you are an OMT prescriber, it's important to be aware of the current prescribing options in place to support you and your patients during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- ACT regulations support increasing takeaways as a social distancing measure. A Category 3A or 3B approval authorises up to 4 takeaways per week of methadone and 27 takeaways per 28 days of buprenorphine/naloxone depending on a person's stability and length in treatment.
- You may also apply for an Approval by Drug to increase the unsupervised doses supplied to the patient above the limits of a Category 3A or 3B approval, where this is requested to support social distancing or compulsory isolation or quarantine.
- You must make an appropriate clinical assessment and submit a Client Stability Assessment Form with your application to Pharmaceutical Services for Approval by Drug for increased takeaways.
- Where a patient is required to self-isolate or quarantine, you should also specify the total number of takeaways for collection or delivery at one time for each patient. Where possible, you should specify an end date for the self-isolation or quarantine, where in-home delivery arrangements will cease.
- Once approved by the Health Protection Service, you will then need to issue a prescription for the amended take away dose regime and provide this to the pharmacy.
- Consider prescribing naloxone, especially to methadone clients receiving takeaways for the first time, or if the number of unsupervised doses significantly increases.

ACT Health is developing contingency guidelines for the delivery of OMT medication to clients under quarantine. Public release is expected within the next week.

In the meantime, patients who are required to self-isolate or quarantine will not need to leave their residence to receive their OMT and should contact their prescriber and pharmacy/clinic by phone to make appropriate arrangements.

For more information on COVID-19 in the ACT visit <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/>

For further information on OMT contingency arrangements contact AODPolicy@act.gov.au

Accessibility

If you have difficulty reading a standard printed document and would like an alternative format, please phone 13 22 81.



If English is not your first language and you need the Translating and Interpreting Service (TIS), please call 13 14 50.

For further accessibility information, visit: www.health.act.gov.au/accessibility

www.health.act.gov.au | Phone: 132281 | Publication No XXXXX

© Australian Capital Territory, Canberra Month Year