

<<CLINIC NAME>>

<<CLINIC ADDRESS>>

<<DATE>>

Dear Pharmacist,

Our patient has chosen your pharmacy for methadone maintenance treatment. We encourage active communication between pharmacists and physicians for proper care of our patients. The following clinic policies must be adhered to so that patient safety is maximized. You may page me at <<PAGER NUMBER>>. **Please do not give the pager number to the patient.**

Clinic Policies

1. Patients are required to drink methadone dispensed in orange juice or orange juice substitute in front of the pharmacist. Ask the patient to speak after drinking the dose to ensure that it has been swallowed.
2. We need to be informed of any diversion.
3. We need to be informed if the patient misses any methadone doses. Please call <<CLINIC PHONE NUMBER>> to leave a message regarding this.
4. If three or more doses are missed in a row, **the methadone dose must be withheld** from the patient to prevent an overdose. The patient must be reassessed at our clinic before methadone is restarted. Please call to inform us.
5. If there is any evidence of intoxication or sedation (slurred speech, stumbling gait, disorientation) **the methadone dose must be withheld** from the patient to prevent an overdose. The patient must be reassessed at the clinic before methadone is restarted. Please call to inform us.
6. Carries should be dispensed in childproof bottles. Patients should be told by the pharmacist to keep the bottles in a locked box. We have already discussed this with the patient.
7. Our prescription must be strictly adhered to with no extra doses, increases or decreases in dose, or changes to carries without consulting the physician.
8. If the patient was observed by the pharmacist to vomit their methadone within half an hour of their dosage, then please notify the physician.
9. Carry bottles are to be returned to the pharmacy on a weekly basis.

Sincerely,

<<PHYSICIAN NAME>>

Adapted from the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Ontario, 2005, *Methadone Maintenance Guidelines*, Appendix I. This document is available for download as part of the OpiATE Project Toolkit: please visit methadonesaveslives.ca.