

METHADONE

Missed Dose Protocol

January 2024



Number of consecutive missed once-daily doses	Action	Example – Last regular dose received 100 mg on Monday
1-3	No dose adjustment needed. Give regular dose and notify pharmacy	Missed Tuesday-Thursday. Presents to ED on Friday: administer 100mg
4	Pharmacy cancels prescription. Re-assess. Give 50% of regular dose or 30-40mg, whichever is higher, and refer back to OAT prescriber	Presents to ED on Saturday, administer 50 mg
5+	Pharmacy cancels prescription. Re-assess. Give 30-40 mg and refer back to OAT prescriber	Presents to ED on Sunday, administer 30-40mg (depending on prior starting dose)

Important information

- Know your local hospital protocol for administering **methadone**.
- Consider consultation with a local addiction specialist or call the BCCSU 24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinical Support Line at **778.945.7619** for:
 - › Doses of **<30 mg** if being prescribed for OAT
 - › Concurrent acute withdrawal or intoxication from second substance
 - › Acute medical illness that may reduce tolerance

Harm reduction

People are at higher risk of overdose if they miss OAT dose(s).

- Offer a take-home naloxone kit and safer use supplies.
- Direct to overdose prevention sites or supervised consumption sites.

More info: www.vch.ca/overdose



Transition of care

1. Document dose given in ED to minimize double dosing and prevent prescription cancellation:
 - Notify usual pharmacy **or**
 - Enter dose on Pharmanet via TMU function, if available in your ED
2. Community prescriptions are automatically cancelled after 4 consecutive days missed:
 - Ensure next-day follow-up **or**
 - Provide bridging prescription at dose given in ED if completed POATSP course
3. Forward documentation to usual OAT provider or clinic.

For more clinical guidance

BCCSU OUD Care in the ED at
www.bccsu.ca/opioid-use-disorder/edcare/

