****Policy****

1. Policy

The policy and procedures within this document help create a uniform process for pharmacy personnel and facility employees to follow regarding ordering and dispensing of methadone.

The following list details procedures that must be followed:

* Indication for use of methadone must be determined
* Methadone for Addiction must be provided and managed by the certified Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP)

Procedures

1. Prescription and order must contain the indicated use of methadone.
2. Pain Management Only
   1. Methadone prescribed for pain management only will be obtained from the pharmacy pursuant to a valid written order and prescription.
   2. The Skilled Nursing Facility will store and handle the methadone according to policies and procedures for controlled substances.
3. Addiction Only
   1. Residents who are receiving methadone prescribed for addiction only must be validated as certified patients of a Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) prior to admission to the Skilled Nursing Facility.
      1. Addiction treatment will comply with all laws, rules and regulations including those of, but not limited to, the State Methadone Authority, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

Note: [21 CFR 1306.07(b)](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21cfr/cfr/1306/1306_07.htm) allows for a practitioner to administer narcotic drugs to an individual for relieving acute withdrawal symptoms when necessary while arrangements are being made for referral for treatment. No more than one day's medication may be administered to the individual or for the individual's use at one time. Such emergency treatment may be carried out for no more than three days and may not be renewed or extended.

* 1. The NTP prescriber is the responsible provider for the resident’s methadone for addiction treatment while the resident is in the Skilled Nursing Facility.
     1. The NTP prescriber will write the order for methadone for addiction.
        1. Skilled Nursing Facility staff should record the methadone in the resident’s orders.
        2. For ordering dose adjustments, the Skilled Nursing Facility provider will confer with the NTP prescriber who is responsible.

Note: The NTP is responsible for delivering the methadone for addiction to the Skilled Nursing Facility. The methadone for addiction treatment is not provided by the pharmacy.

* + 1. The Skilled Nursing Facility will receive the methadone from the NTP and handle the methadone according to policies and procedures for controlled substances.

1. Pain Management AND Addiction
   1. Residents who are receiving methadone prescribed for both pain management and addiction must be certified patients of a Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP) prior to admission to the Skilled Nursing Facility.
      1. Addiction treatment will comply with all laws, rules and regulations including those of, but not limited to, the State Methadone Authority, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
   2. When methadone is prescribed for both pain management and addiction, prior to admission, the Skilled Nursing Facility staff will gather written information from the referring prescriber/NTP facility regarding:
      1. The reason for resident’s pain and anticipated duration of need.
   3. Upon admission:
      1. The Skilled Nursing Facility attending prescriber prescribes the methadone for pain.
      2. The pharmacy delivers the methadone for pain.
      3. All of the policies and procedures for controlled substances are followed.
   4. **If/when customer no longer needs methadone for pain**, the prescribing and delivering of the methadone for addiction will be transitioned back to the NTP.
      1. The NTP prescriber will write the order for methadone for addiction.
         1. Skilled Nursing Facility staff should record the methadone in the resident’s orders.
         2. For ordering dose adjustments, the Skilled Nursing Facility provider will confer with the NTP prescriber who is responsible.

Note: The NTP is responsible for delivering the methadone for addiction to the Skilled Nursing Facility. The methadone for addiction treatment is not provided by the pharmacy.

* + 1. The Skilled Nursing Facility will receive the methadone from the NTP and handle the methadone according to policies and procedures for controlled substances.