

## Opiate Substitution Treatment (OST) Patient Information Agreement and Consent

1 Hamilton Place, Bowen Hills, Qld 4006  
Ph: 07 3620 8111 Fax: 07 3252 4626  
Free call: 1800 172 076  
PO Box 2470 Fortitude Valley BC, Qld 4006  
Email: [medical@quihn.org](mailto:medical@quihn.org)  
[www.betteraccessmedical.org](http://www.betteraccessmedical.org)

12 / 89-99 West Burleigh Road, Burleigh Heads, Qld 4220  
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***You are encouraged to discuss any issues with your Prescriber at any time during your consultations.***

### **Pregnancy**

Please tell your GP if you are pregnant, as this may affect the opiate treatment you are prescribed.

### **Driving**

Caution is advised in regards to driving or operating heavy machinery during the first 3 to 4 days of starting OST medications or following dose adjustments since they may cause drowsiness. Speak with your prescribing doctor and consult the medications product information.

### **Suboxone and precipitated withdrawal**

It is recommended that if people are starting opiate treatment with Suboxone, then they need to be in withdrawal at the time, or precipitated withdrawal will occur. This is also relevant for people who are transferring from methadone to Suboxone, it is recommended at least 72 hours (or as long as possible between a person's last dose of methadone and their first dose of Suboxone).

### **Telling other prescribers and health care workers about your medications**

Other medications may affect how methadone or buprenorphine work and it may affect the choice of treatment that you receive. Buprenorphine can interfere in the action of many major painkillers and you may wish to inform doctors and ambulance staff you are taking it if involved in an accident.

### **Suddenly stopping**

Gradual reductions of Opiate treatments are more likely to lead to long term success, rather than rapid reductions. It is advised to plan your reduction with your doctor.

### **Overdose**

You should take your medication as prescribed. Mixing with alcohol or other drugs (such as heroin) and pharmaceutical opioids (such as benzodiazepines (such as but not limited to; diazepam (i.e. Valium<sup>®</sup>), tamazepam (i.e. Normison<sup>®</sup> and Restoril<sup>®</sup>), alprazolam (Xanax<sup>®</sup>), chlordiazepoxide (Librium<sup>®</sup>), clorazepate (Tranxene<sup>®</sup>), lorazepam (Ativan<sup>®</sup>), and triazolam (Halcion<sup>®</sup>)) increase your risks of overdose. Better Access Medical Clinic recommends that you talk to your prescribing doctors about other medication you are prescribed.

### **Behaviour**

Abusive and aggressive behaviour cannot be tolerated at this clinic and will result in your treatment being referred elsewhere.

### **Attendance and Appointments**

You will be required to maintain your attendance at regular (monthly) re-scripting and reviews with the prescribing doctor at this clinic. You will be required to attend your chosen pharmacy for regular dosing. If

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you do not attend your regular appointments it may be unsafe to continue providing opioid medications without clinical review and your treatment may be referred elsewhere.

### Urine Tests

You may be asked to provide urine samples for periodic drug screens. These urine tests are necessary to monitor your progress in treatment and to support the clinic in planning your treatment, including the provision of doses from pharmacies. Refusal to provide these may result in your treatment being reviewed by the prescriber and your treatment may be referred elsewhere.

### Dosing

Your medication is generally supervised by the dosing pharmacy. Diversion of these medications may lead to fatal overdose if consumed with no tolerance. Diversion of your dose may lead to your treatment being referred elsewhere. Methadone, even in a small dose, can be lethal if consumed by people with no tolerance (including children). If you are given 'takeaway' doses you must store them in a safe place that cannot be accessed by other people (particularly children) and only take them as prescribed.

### Drug Dealing

Drug dealing is not tolerated at QuIHN or Better Access Medical Clinic and may result in your treatment being referred elsewhere.

### Transfer to community prescribing and dosing

You have been referred to Better Access Medical Clinic because you have been stabilised on Opiate Treatment at the 'Biala' Alcohol and Drug Service. Should you require any of the following issues addressed you may be referred at any time back to the 'Biala' Alcohol and Drug Service:

- If you are not able to maintain your regular appointments for re-scripting and review with our prescribers;
- If you have lost prescriptions and/or medications;
- If you require your doses to be increased;
- If you make repeat attendances under the influence of other drugs;
- If you present with aggressive or abusive behaviour;
- If you refuse to provide urine samples for periodic testing;
- If your doses are or are suspected of being diverted;
- If you become or are pregnant or breastfeeding; and
- If any other issues or complications arise that may require referral back to 'Biala' for more specialized assessment and support.

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*You are encouraged to discuss any issues with your Prescriber at any time during your consultations.*

#### **Your rights**

As a patient of the Better Access Medical Clinic you have the right to:

- Information about the nature and extent of your rights and responsibilities;
- A safe, accessible, supportive, welcoming environment and to feel safe;
- A quality service, delivered in a courteous, non discriminatory, respectful and timely manner;
- Health care delivered by health professionals who are currently and suitably qualified and trained;
- Be included in decisions and choices about your health care and to accept or reject advice, counselling or treatment, and/or withdraw consent and refuse further services at any time;
- Privacy and confidentiality in line with QuIHN's privacy policy, except in circumstances required by law;
- Access to personal records in accordance with the law and QuIHN's policies;
- Make informed choices about the support available and be involved in decision making processes relating to support and health;
- Be informed about services, treatment, options and costs in a clear and open way;
- Be informed about the Client Complaints Policy and Procedure;
- Give informed consent for QuIHN to discuss personal information with another organisation;
- The right to appropriate referrals where necessary;
- Involve a support person of your choice at any time; and
- Feedback mechanisms of complaint and redress that involve prompt and fair responses.

#### **Patient Agreement**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, consent to commencing opiate treatment at Better Access Medical Clinic.

I understand that I have been referred to Better Access Medical Clinic for my Opiate Substitution Treatment (OST) because I have been stabilised on opiate treatment at the 'Biala' Alcohol and Drug Service.

In commencing my opiate treatment at Better Access Medical Clinic, the following has been explained to me, I understand and agree that:

- Methadone (Biodone<sup>®</sup>) and buprenorphine (Subutex<sup>®</sup>, Suboxone<sup>®</sup>) are drugs of dependence and are prescribed for my own medical use.
- I will work in collaboration with my GP prescriber around my health and well being and drug use.
- The use of alcohol and other drugs (particularly benzodiazepines and other opioids) together with methadone or buprenorphine may risk overdose.

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- If I have lost my prescriptions and/or medications that I may be referred back to community prescribing and dosing at 'Biala'.
- 'Take away' doses will not be replaced if lost, stolen or broken and it is my responsibility to ensure they are kept in a safe place out of the reach of others.
- Should I require doses to be increased I may be referred back to community prescribing and dosing at 'Biala'.
- Services accessed through Better Access Medical Clinic are private and confidential, unless I provide written consent. This is subject to the legal obligations of the clinics prescriber and duty of care. For more information refer to the Better Access Medical Clinic Privacy Collection Statement.
- Failure to pick up my medications for more than 3 days will result in my having to attend my prescriber at Better Access Medical Clinic for a review of dosing before dosing recommences.
- If I am not able to maintain my regular appointments for re-scripting and review with my prescriber at Better Access Medical Clinic I may be referred back to 'Biala'.
- Violence, threatened violence, aggressive behaviour(s) and/or verbal abuse towards staff or other patients, diversion of my medication, repeat attendance under the influence of other drugs, and unlawful activity (e.g. drug use or drug dealing around the Better Access Medical Clinic or pharmacy) will result in my treatment being reviewed by my prescriber and I may be referred back to 'Biala'.
- I may be required to provide random or periodic urine samples for testing, refusal to provide these may result in my treatment being reviewed by my prescriber and I may be referred back to 'Biala'.
- I understand that if any issues or complications arise that I may be referred back to 'Biala' at the discretion of my prescriber at Better Access Medical Clinic.

**I agree to abide by the conditions of the Better Access Medical Clinic OST Program as above and I have been given the *Opiate Substitution Treatment Patient Information*. I will discuss any issues I may have with my Prescriber during my consultation(s).**

<b>Patient Signature:</b>	<b>Prescriber Signature:</b>
<b>Patient Name:</b>	<b>Prescriber Name:</b>
<b>Date:</b> ____ / ____ / ____	<b>Date:</b> ____ / ____ / ____

**As a client of Better Access Medical Clinic you have the right to complain and to be informed of the process for complaints. You may wish to request a copy of the following information:**

- Better Access Medical Clinic Clinic Information and Collection Statement
- QuIHN Complaints Policy
- QuIHN Privacy Policy
- QuIHN Client Services Charter