

## Addictions Services Missed Dose Advice

There are currently pressures on all services that have resulted in Community Pharmacies struggling to continue to provide services. If your pharmacy is facing such challenges it is important to inform the Primary Care Department of any closures. It is important that Addiction Services are notified of closures to ensure that OST patients don't miss 3 doses and require re-titrating their methadone or buprenorphine. It is important to ensure that the process of documenting missed doses and notifying Addiction Services colleagues of action that has or has not been taken is robust, particularly when pharmacies have closed due to staff shortages or severe weather.

Although direct communication by phone is preferable it is not always easy to contact the key worker at Addiction Services using the phone number **01592 716446**. As an alternative you can email the information from the pharmacy's or your **nhs email account** to the generic email address [Fife.addictionservicesadmin@nhs.scot](mailto:Fife.addictionservicesadmin@nhs.scot) giving full details and a contact phone number.

Please put **URGENT MISSED DOSE REPORT** in the subject line and mark the email ! High Importance.

The current guidance is:

### 1. Contact the prescriber/ key worker when:

- The patient has **missed or is likely to miss TWO consecutive doses**  
*This allows the prescriber/key worker to be aware and consider contacting the patient and/or giving advice to pharmacy on the course of action to be taken should the third dose be missed.*

### 2. Withhold the dose if:

- **THREE consecutive doses are missed. The prescriber / key worker must be contacted after the third dose has been missed and before giving a further dose.**  
*Tolerance can be lost quite quickly and the prescriber may wish to reassess the patient before continuing with the treatment.*

### 3. Keep the prescription separate:

- Keep the prescription separate, clearly marked with the action taken and quarantine any dispensed doses until the prescriber or key worker has contacted the pharmacy.  
*This should prevent the prescription being continued by a relief, locum or regular pharmacist in error.*

### 4. Emergency supply requests for OST:

- Patients should be directed to their usual prescriber and advice given re managing missed doses, do not refer patients to OOH services, the only safe way to access OST prescriptions is via the patient's own prescriber
- Community Pharmacists who are independent prescribers should not write OST prescriptions for patients.