

How to write an Instalment (Blue) Prescription for Methadone and other Controlled Drugs

Legal Requirements

All prescriptions must include the following:

- The patients name, address and where appropriate, age.
- The form and strength of the prescription
- The dose to be taken
- The total quantity of the preparation or the number of dosage units in both words and figures
- The signature of the prescriber
- The date on which the prescriber signed the prescription

In addition to the above, the prescription must:-

- Specify the dispensing instructions (e.g. daily dispensing) and the amount to be dispensed on the instalment prescription form.
- Specify 'supervised consumption' on the prescription if the prescriber wants supervised consumption in the pharmacy
- Specify the **actual days and quantities** to be supplied when the pharmacy is closed or where more than one day's instalment is to be dispensed.

It is good practice, but not a legal requirement to state the intended date on which the first instalment should start. Alternatively, the prescription could be postdated to start on the intended date.

Please note that diazepam, as well as buprenorphine and other Schedule 2 controlled drugs, can be also be issued by instalment prescription.

Important

Prescribers are responsible for ensuring that the wording on instalment dispensing prescriptions is accurate, legal and legible.

Writing of instalment dispensing prescriptions should not be delegated to prescriptions clerks or receptionists.

Any hand written amendments to instalment dispensing prescriptions should be initialled by the prescriber who signs the bottom of the prescription.

Examples shown overleaf

Examples

1) Daily supervised consumption where Sunday's dose is to be dispensed on Saturday.

Methadone Oral Solution 1mg/1ml
50ml to be taken daily
Supply 50ml daily and supervise consumption
100ml to be supplied on Saturday (for Sat and Sun)
700ml (seven hundred millilitres)

2) Daily pick up Mon-Thurs with weekend pickup on Friday

Methadone Oral Solution 1mg/1ml
50ml to be taken daily
Supply 50ml daily on Mon-Thurs, and 150ml on Friday
700ml (seven hundred millilitres)

3) Pick up on Mon, Thurs, Fri and Sat with supervised consumption on pick up days

Methadone Oral Solution 1mg/1ml
50ml to be taken daily
Supply 150ml on Monday, 50ml on Thurs, Fri and 100ml on Sat
700ml (seven hundred millilitres)

4) Prescription to be collected three times a week (on Monday, Wednesday and Friday)

Methadone Oral Solution 1mg/1ml
50ml to be taken daily
Supply 100ml on Mon and Wed and 150ml on Friday
700ml (seven hundred millilitres)