

Pharmacotherapy Newsletter

Centrepay

A convenient way to receive pharmacotherapy dispensing payments from Centrelink customers.

Centrepay is a direct bill paying service offered free to customers receiving payments from Centrelink. With Centrepay, customers can choose to pay their bills directly to an organisation on their behalf by having a regular deduction from their Centrepay payments. Customers can even choose to pay their pharmacotherapy dispensing fees to their pharmacy using Centrepay.

To offer this service to your clients your pharmacy must apply to Centrelink to become a registered Centrepay provider. Once your pharmacy is a registered provider your clients can nominate to have their pharmacotherapy dispensing fees paid directly to you before they receive their payment from Centrelink. The client can arrange their deduction by completing a Centrepay deduction form.

When you are registered as a Centrepay provider you have the option of accessing Centrepay reports. These reports include:

- when a client requests a Centrepay deduction with your pharmacy
- when the deduction is paid into your pharmacy's account
- if a client changes or cancels a Centrepay deduction
- if a client's Centrelink payment is suspended or
- cancelled which would result in a deduction not being made.

Centrelink has two electronic methods to provide these reports; over the Web using FileEx2 or Electronic Data Transfer (EDT) via an internet mailbox facility.

Centrelink will send the client a letter to confirm any changes they request to their Centrepay deductions. Your pharmacy will need to show the deduction payments on the client's accounts.

To ensure your clients know you are a registered Centrepay provider, you can order supplies of Centrepay promotional materials and forms free of charge. You can place an order by contacting the Centrepay Help Desk on the toll free number 1800 044 063.

For more information about Centrepay you can contact the Victorian office on **Tel:** 03 9241 0828 or visit www.centrelink.gov.au/internet/internet.nsf

Or email Centrelink.business.support@centrelink.gov.au

PAMS will help organise this with clients who are having difficulty paying dispensing fees. Contact Sarah on **Tel:** 9329 1500

Welcome to the October edition of the Pharmacotherapy Newsletter. The Pharmacotherapy Development team is now positioned within the Drug Services Group not Drugs and Poisons Regulation Group.

We are always happy to have your news and contributions. Please forward them to:

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Or

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Robin Fisher

Manager, Drug Services Group

Self-Assessment Audit

Pharmacotherapy pharmacies were recently asked to conduct a Self-Assessment relating to compliance with the provisions of the Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006 and the Pharmacotherapy Policy.

When preparing take away doses of methadone the following components are mandated under the Act or Regulations:

METHADONE SOLUTION containing xx mg in 200ml.

This bottle contains a single daily dose of methadone to be taken on 15 January 2007 by John Citizen

Prepared on 14 January 2007

Pharmacy Name, Address & Phone Number

“This medication may cause drowsiness and may increase the effects of alcohol. If affected do not drive a motor vehicle or operate machinery”.

The Pharmacy Board Guidelines and the Pharmacotherapy Policy require the following components:

“KEEP OUT OF REACH OF CHILDREN”

“May cause death or injury if taken by another person”

Please also note:

- Methadone takeaway doses must have child-resistant closures.
- Doses must be 200ml in volume.
- Methadone and buprenorphine must be stored in accordance with legislative requirements and must particularly be secure during opening hours.

- Buprenorphine tablets must be retained in their strip packaging either in the pharmacy or in the presentation of Suboxone takeaway doses.
- Pharmacies must comply with the Drugs Poisons and Controlled Substances Regulations 2006 in relation to records for Schedule 8 poisons, including failing to record the remaining balance of pharmacotherapy drugs **on at least a daily basis.**

Pharmacists should exercise their professional judgment about the appropriateness of varying from the Policy to accommodate the prescriber.

Application to treat an Opioid Dependent Person with Methadone or Buprenorphine

A reminder to prescribing doctors that the completion of the “Application to treat an opioid dependent person with methadone or buprenorphine” form is a legal document and all the information must be true and accurate.

The section containing program details of patient asks whether the patient is transferring from another prescriber. If the answer is YES a second question is asked - whether the previous prescriber is aware of the patient transferring.

In the case of pharmacotherapy, it is critical to the safety of the patient that a treating doctor has actually made contact with the previous prescriber and dosing pharmacy to prevent the possibility of multiple treatments. DPU reports a large number of cases recently where a former prescriber has first discovered a patient has transferred after receiving a permit termination letter.

The Department generally does not contact previous prescribers if the applicant has declared that they have been made aware of the transfer.

Better Access to Mental Health Care Initiative: an overview

The Pharmacotherapy Development team are communicating with GP’s to promote and encourage the mental health package through the Medicare Benefits Schedule initiative, which introduces new Medicare items to provide better and more affordable mental health care.

Pharmacotherapy clients fit well under this category.

New GP items for:
GP Mental Health Care Plan (item 2710) \$150 rebate

GP Mental Health Review (item 2712) \$100 rebate

GP Mental Health Consultation (item 2713)

A mental disorder is a term used to describe a range of clinically diagnosable disorders that significantly interfere with an individual’s cognitive, emotional or social abilities. This includes patients with mental disorders arising from:

- generalised anxiety disorder
- depression
- eating disorders
- alcohol use disorders
- drug use disorders
- sleep disorders

to name a few.

Further information on the new GP Mental Health Care Medicare items can be found by going to the Department of Health and Ageing website (www.health.gov.au) and using the AOZ index to go to ‘M’ for ‘Mental Health Care – GP Medicare items’.

Increased Number of Pharmacotherapy clients

Pharmacotherapy approved pharmacies are contacted quarterly by the Drugs and Poisons Regulation Group to ascertain the number of clients on their program on a given day. This produces an accurate snapshot of the number of clients in treatment. The July census shows an increase in numbers of 261 people for that quarter. A total of 11,051 on treatment in Victoria.

Mental Health and Drugs

The Hon Lisa Neville is the Minister for Mental Health, Community Services and Senior Victorians. This portfolio includes drugs.

Drugs Policy and Services Branch has joined the Mental Health Branch with Gill Callister becoming the new Executive Director of the Mental Health and Drugs Division at the beginning of the month.

Mental health and drug use co-morbidities have been the focus of many new Commonwealth and State initiatives over the past two years.

The Commonwealth “Teams of Two” initiative encourages General Practitioners to be aware of co-morbidities and has run training through many Divisions of General Practice. Psychiatrists and psychologists may bulk bill clients referred by GPs.

The Dual Diagnosis Initiative is a State initiative designed to ensure that clients with substance use disorder and mental health disorder do not slip through the cracks and gain no treatment as has happened in the past.

Mental health and drug treatment practitioners are spending time in reciprocal services to gain a broader understanding of best treatment practices for these clients.

As the two treatment services become more closely integrated, care for dual diagnosis clients will become more widely available.

Who are you treating?

When prescribing methadone or buprenorphine for a new patient, doctors are reminded that they must establish the identity of that person by sighting a birth certificate, driver’s licence and/or passport. The prescriber must certify a photograph for the patient to give the dispensing pharmacist. The pharmacist should not dispense without the certified photo because it may not be the person for whom the script was written. It is recommended that the photograph be attached to the patient sign book so that any pharmacist can ascertain the identity of the patient prior to dosing.

Equipment Required for Dispensing Pharmacotherapies.

The Drug Services Group is often asked for advice with regard to equipment required for dispensing pharmacotherapies. The following list of suppliers is not exhaustive, nor does it represent our endorsement.

Dispensing Pumps

Invitro Technologies
Tel: 03 9562 6888

Interpath Services
Tel: 03 9457 6277

Bottles/Jars for takeaways

Bottles containing take-away doses of methadone should be fitted with child-resistant closures, robust and labelled with appropriate warnings. Take-away doses in Victoria must be diluted with fruit juice or cordial to 200ml.

McGloins **Tel:** 02 9836 1000

Cospak **Tel:** 03 9814 4400

Plasdene **Tel:** 03 9480 3222

PB Packaging **Tel:** 03 9580 2077

Sigma **Tel:** 1300 132 293

API **Tel:** 1800 803 505

Tablet pulverisers/crushers

Are available from your wholesalers

Methadone and Buprenorphine

The Drugs Services Group notifies wholesalers when pharmacies are approved to dispense methadone and buprenorphine. The Commonwealth subsidises these drugs so that they are then supplied to pharmacies at no charge.

Methadone syrup:	Symbion
Biodone forte:	API
Subutex and Suboxone:	Symbion, Sigma and API

New Pharmacies

North Yarra Community Health Service

365 Hoddle Street
COLLINGWOOD 3066
Tel: 9419 6155

Jan Juc Pharmacy

3 / 2 Stuart Avenue
JAN JUC 3228
Tel: 5261 9222

Bladin Street Pharmacy

62 Bladin Street
LAVERTON 3028
Tel: 9369 0033

My Chemist Frankston

49 Davey Street
FRANKSTON 3199
Tel: 9781 5760

David Ford Pharmacy

275 Auburn Road
HAWTHORN EAST 3123
Tel: 9882 2872

Skewes & Rushton Pharmacy

100 Burwood Road
HAWTHORN 3122
Tel: 9818 5396

Parkhill Plaza Pharmacy

Shop 2/215-225 Parkhill Drive
BERWICK 3806
Tel: 9705 7999

Anderson & Wickham Pharmacy

83 McLennan Street
MOOROOPNA 3629
Tel: 5825 2144

Michael Lee Pharmacy

281 Geelong Road
KINGSVILLE 3012
Tel: 9687 1555