

# Guide for Pharmacies exiting the Opioid Treatment Program: Facilitating change of dosing points

This guide supports the safe and efficient change of dosing points for people on the opioid treatment program. **Pharmacists exiting the Opioid Treatment Program have a duty of care to ensure the change of dosing point process is efficient, thorough and person-centred.** Pharmacists play a crucial role discussing the change of dosing point process with clients and communicating last dose details and other relevant information to the new dosing point. This ensures continuity of access to treatment for the client and minimises disruption.

## Discuss the process with the client

Pharmacists have a duty of care to discuss the change of dosing point process with the client, including:

- ▶ The date by which they need to change dosing points
- ▶ Information about other local dosing point options, referring to [Opioid Treatment Line](#): 1800 642 428 if needed.
- ▶ Pharmacists will liaise with the prescriber to advise of their decision of cease providing OTP services and that alternative dosing points have been discussed with the client.

Pharmacists should notify the [Pharmaceutical Services Unit](#) that they will cease providing the OTP.

## Clinical information to provide

Once the prescriber has been contacted and transfer arranged, provide the following information in writing to the prescriber and the new dosing point.

A **summary of patient details including dose/s** provided, including:

- medication(s) dispensed
- last dose details including any take-away doses provided
- new dosing point contact

Any **other relevant information** to support the transfer of dosing point.

**Provide contact details** in case follow up information is required.

## Liaise with Prescriber

Contact the prescriber to inform them of changes and provide details of:

- ▶ **planned date of last dose** to be dispensed by the current dosing point,
  - including **any takeaway doses**, if any, to be provided on the date of last dose
- ▶ Details of the new dosing point to be agreed with prescriber.

To support safe transfer, pharmacist and prescribers should consider co-ordinating the timing of last dose inc. takeaway doses to last until an appointment with the prescriber can be arranged.

Prescribers should notify the NSW Ministry of Health of any permanent change to a NSW OTP client's dosing point using this [form](#).

Client Support: - [Opioid Treatment Line](#) 1800 642 428 - [NUAA Peer line](#) 1800 644 413  
[Alcohol and Drug Information Service \(ADIS\) NSW](#) 1800 250 015 or [web chat](#)

Health professional clinical support: [PSA Pharmacist Advice Line](#): 1300 369 772 (available free for all NSW Pharmacies offering OTP)

[Drug and Alcohol Specialist Advisory Service](#) (02) 8382 1006 (Sydney Metro) / 1800 023 687 (rural remote NSW)

[Pharmacy Guild NSW branch](#) – 9467 7100 (pharmacy incentive scheme support)

Advice about NSW Health OTP authorities and legislative requirements : [Contact Pharmaceutical Services](#) [www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/Pages/contacts.aspx](http://www.health.nsw.gov.au/pharmaceutical/Pages/contacts.aspx)

Finding a dosing point: [Opioid Treatment Program: community pharmacies](#) Contact the [Opioid Treatment Line](#) (1800 642 428)

Or contact your [Local Health District drug and alcohol service](#) for assistance