

## Professional Notice

**To:** Pharmacy Practitioners

**From:** Nova Scotia College of Pharmacists

**Date:** December 3, 2019

**Re:** Witnessed Methadone or Buprenorphine/Naloxone Ingestion during the Holidays

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In anticipation of pharmacy closures during the upcoming holiday season, practitioners are reminded of their professional and ethical responsibility to make necessary arrangements to ensure patients receiving daily witnessed ingestion of methadone or buprenorphine/naloxone are able to continue to receive their witnessed doses each day. This will require pharmacists having direct communication with the patient's methadone prescriber.

The following references provide guidance and direction on expected practice in these situations:

- The NSCP [Standards of Practice: OAMT](#), Standard 3 - Accessibility and Registration, Standard 5 - Interprofessional Collaboration, and Appendix I - Guest Dosing
- The CPSNS [Methadone Maintenance Treatment Handbook](#), sections 7.2 - Take-Home Doses: Criteria, and 7.3.2. - Weekend Take-Home Doses when Pharmacy Access is Limited

It is critical for the safety of patients and the public as a whole that individuals are NOT prescribed take-home doses in order to accommodate the pharmacy's closure when it would otherwise be inappropriate.