

Changes to Methadone Maintenance Treatment

Frequently Asked Questions for Patients

A new form of methadone called Methadose (methadone) is going to be used for your methadone maintenance treatment (MMT).

How will this change impact me?

As of June 26, 2014, pharmacies may start to use Methadose for your MMT prescription. You should not notice many changes, if any at all.

- You will still take the same amount of methadone each day for your treatment.
- You should always continue to follow the directions that your pharmacist and/or physician give you for taking your methadone prescription.

The methadone dose you were receiving was likely orange-coloured because most pharmacies mixed it with an orange drink (such as Tang). As your pharmacist will continue to mix your methadone with a fruit drink (e.g. Tang), most patients may not see any changes compared to the previous methadone solution you were taking. Some patients may notice a few differences when beginning to take Methadose.

Taste and Colour: Methadose comes in two flavours: cherry or flavourless. Depending on what your pharmacist mixes the Methadose with, it could taste a little bit different or you may notice a change in colour (reddish)

Amount: The amount of liquid you receive should not change. Pharmacists are required to mix Methadose with a liquid like a fruit drink before giving it to you.

Thickness: With Methadose, there may be a change in the thickness or stickiness of your methadone dose.

What is not different about Methadose?

With Methadose, you still take the same amount of methadone each day for your treatment, so its effects will not be different.

There are no increased risks than what you have already been told about with taking methadone. All side effects and precautions may still apply.

If you have any questions about your prescription, you should always ask your pharmacist and/or your doctor.

Why is the type of methadone given to patients changing?

Methadose comes pre-mixed, which helps make sure you get the same, consistent amount of methadone each day for your treatment. This change helps support patient safety.

Safety precautions and safe storage

As with any prescription, you always need to follow the directions your pharmacist and doctor give you and take your prescription properly.

If you are allowed to take your methadone prescription home, you need to continue to always store it safely away from children and pets, in a child-proof container and in a locked box.

In case of emergency

Call 911 if you experience an adverse reaction or symptoms of overdose.

If Methadose is taken by anyone other than the person it is prescribed for, call 911 immediately. Accidental use by a child or anyone not used to taking methadone may result in death.

For more information

If you have any questions or would like more information about your prescription you should always talk with your pharmacist and/or your doctor.

You can email other questions to: PublicDrugPrgrms.moh@ontario.ca