

International guidelines on dose for methadone induction⁹

| Country | Dose range for initial dose |
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| UK national guidelines (Department of Health, 1999) ¹³ | 10-20 mg if tolerance is uncertain |
| | 25-40 mg if tolerance is established |
| | An additional 30 mg can be given after 4 hours if withdrawal symptoms are continuing |
| UK (Royal College of General Practitioners, 2005) ^{w1} | 10-30 mg, except patients on sedative drugs (eg benzodiazepines or alcohol) who should start at <20 mg |
| Italy (Europad) ^{w2} | 20-30 mg (>30 mg only in patients known to have tolerance) |
| Canada (Health Canada, 2001) ^{w3} | 15-30 mg for first three days |
| Australia (Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged Care, Canberra, 2000) ^{w4} | 20-40 mg based on estimated tolerance and documented drug use in previous three days |
| Netherlands (Euro-Methwork) ^{w5} | 10-20 mg if tolerance is uncertain |
| | 25-40 mg if tolerance is high |

w1 Royal College of General Practitioners Substance Misuse Unit, RCGP Sex, Drugs and HIV Task Group, Substance Misuse Management in General Practice, The Alliance. *Guidance for the use of methadone for the treatment of opioid dependence in primary care*. London: RCGP, 2005.

w2 Maremmani I, Barra M, Bignamini E et al, Clinical foundations for the use of methadone. *Heroin Add & Rel Clin Probl* 2002;4(2):19-32

w3 Health Canada. *Methadone Maintenance guidelines*. Toronto: College of Physicians of Ontario; 2001 (available at www.cpso.on.ca)

w4 Commonwealth Department of Health and Aged care: Adelaide, South Australia; 2000 (was available at www.health.gov.au)

w5 Vester A, Bunning E. *Methadone guidelines*. Amsterdam, The Netherlands: Euro-Methwork; 2000 (was available at www.q4q.nl/methwork)]

Assessment of suitability for methadone maintenance treatment at Lisson Grove Health Centre (adapted from national guidelines)¹³

History

Reason for presentation

Drug history

Past and present drug use (amounts, frequency, timing, routes of administration, continuity, cost)

Previous treatments for addiction

Periods of abstinence and triggers of relapse

Withdrawal symptoms

Medical history:

- General medical and psychiatric history

- Hepatitis and HIV history (dates of tests, vaccinations and treatments)

- Experience of accidental overdoses

Social history:

- Biographical history

- Forensic history (including any outstanding charges)

- Current situation (housing, employment, benefits, relationships, children)

Physical examination

General condition (including behaviour, signs of intoxication, hygiene)

Injection sites if applicable

Motivation, expectations, and risk taking behaviour

Urine dipstick test for illicit drugs

Alcohol breath test if applicable
