
Yale New Haven Health

Emergency Services

Methadone Administration in the ED Guideline

Original: 02/2012

Last Reviewed: 08/18

Purpose:

To provide guidance for patients undergoing methadone treatment for addiction will be managed in the emergency department.

Background:

Guideline for Care:

- The administration of methadone is for patients currently enrolled in methadone treatment programs.
- Administration of methadone in the ED will be restricted to periods during which their normal access to local clinics is unavailable due to weather emergencies.
- Treatment:
 - Every effort should be made to verify that the patient is in treatment and did not receive their medication.
 - Patients who have driven themselves to the ED should be provided a dose and advised to take it once they have returned home
 - If the patient's treatment in a program can be confirmed but not the dose, a maximum of 30mg may be provided.
 - If the patient presents in withdrawal, then treatment will be provided based on evaluation by the clinician and the needs of the patient.
- There are four local agencies that provide this service:
 - Southern Connecticut Rehabilitation Center (SCRC)
 - Multi-Cultural Ambulatory Addiction Services (MAAS)
 - New Era Rehabilitation Center
 - APT Foundation