

Countdown to codeine changes

North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network and North West Melbourne Pharmacotherapy Network can help you prepare for the transition to Prescription Only codeine.

What is changing?

All codeine-containing products will require a prescription from **1 February 2018**.

How to prepare for codeine rescheduling?

Conversations with patients around codeine can be challenging.

We recommend the following:

- Start **discussing** this with your patients now as you may identify people with immediate needs
- Access various **training and resources** before 1 February 2018
- Hand out **consumer resources**
- Familiarise yourself with **local treatment services**
- Familiarise yourself with **pharmacotherapy** – contact North West Melbourne Pharmacotherapy Network.

Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Dependence

- As codeine becomes prescription only and as **Real-Time Prescription Monitoring/SafeScript** is introduced, more people will be diagnosed with opioid dependence.
- These patients may benefit from pharmacotherapy/Opioid Replacement Therapy (ORT).
- **Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence** is evidence-based and appropriate for dependence on over-the-counter codeine, prescription opioids or illicit opioids.
- **All GPs can prescribe Suboxone** to up to 5 patients without completing prescriber training.
 - This means **all** GPs can help their patients in need.
 - Just remember that **Suboxone** requires a permit.

Support for GPs

It is highly recommended all GPs become approved ORT prescribers by completing RACGP training modules. See the **RACGP guide**.

The best way to help patients struggling with opioid dependence is to be prepared.

See overleaf for a list of clinical and patient resources to have at the ready for 1 February 2018.

Education, Training and Resources

<p>Scriptwise Codeine Toolkits www.scriptwise.org.au/codeine</p>	<p>Scriptwise is a non-profit organisation dedicated to reducing prescription medication misuse and overdose fatalities in Australia. A Prescriber Toolkit, Pharmacist Toolkit and Community Toolkit are available online.</p>
<p>TGA Codeine Hub www.tga.gov.au/codeine-info-hub</p>	<p>The Therapeutic Goods Administration (TGA) codeine website containing comprehensive information and fact sheets for consumers, as well as guidance for health professionals. Literature on harm from codeine is also available here.</p>
<p>National Prescribing Service (NPS) www.nps.org.au/medical-info/clinical-topics/over-the-counter-codeine-changes-to-supply</p>	<p>Dedicated NPS codeine page containing articles, resources and links to assist health professionals to prepare for codeine rescheduling.</p>
<p>Pain Australia www.painaustralia.org.au</p> <p>Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence training https://www.racgp.org.au/education/courses/racgevents/vic/</p>	<p>Education and resources about acute, chronic and cancer pain management.</p> <p>Training is available for prescribers participating in the opioid pharmacotherapy program.</p>
<p>Clinical Advice</p>	
<p>Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service (DACAS) 1800 812 804 www.dacas.org.au</p>	<p>A free 24 hour, 7 day specialist telephone consultancy service providing clinical advice to health professionals managing patients with drug and alcohol issues, including dependence on pharmaceutical opioids. Clinical resources available.</p>
<p>Local and State-wide treatment and referral services</p>	
<p>DirectLine 1800 888 236 www.directline.org.au</p>	<p>State-wide confidential Alcohol and other Drug counselling and referral support.</p>
<p>PAMS (Pharmacotherapy, Advocacy, Mediation and Support) 1800 443 844 http://hrvic.org.au/pharmacotherapy/about-pams/</p>	<p>Provide information, support, advocacy, referral and mediation for pharmacotherapy consumers and their direct service providers.</p>
<p>North and West Metro AOD Service 1800 700 514 http://www.regen.org.au/treatment-support/north-and-west-metro-aod-service</p>	<p>Intake and Assessment services across Melbourne's North and West Metro Regions.</p>
<p>Australian Community Support Organisation 1300 022 760 <i>*If in Shire of Macedon Ranges</i></p>	<p>Intake and Referral Service across regional Victoria to assist people experiencing mental health, alcohol and drugs issues.</p>
<p>Information and support about pharmacotherapy</p>	
<p>North West Melbourne Pharmacotherapy Network (03) 9448 5511 pharmacotherapy@cohealth.org.au</p>	<p>Supports pharmacists and GPs to provide pharmacotherapy services and best practice opioid management.</p>

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