

Countdown to codeine changes

North Western Melbourne Primary Health Network and North West Melbourne Pharmacotherapy Network are here to support you as 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 having the conversations with your patients and local GPs now
- Access various comprehensive **training and resources** before 1 February 2018.
- Hand out **consumer resources** as often as possible
- Familiarise yourself with **local treatment services**.
- Obtain approval to provide **pharmacotherapy** dosing – contact [North West Melbourne Pharmacotherapy Network](#).

Pharmacotherapy for Opioid Dependence

- With upcoming changes to codeine scheduling, as well as [Real-Time Prescription Monitoring/SafeScript](#), it is anticipated that more individuals will be identified with opioid dependence and, as a result, will require treatment with **pharmacotherapy**.

- **Pharmacotherapy**, also known as Opioid Replacement Therapy, is a key component of the **Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Dependence (MATOD)** approach in Victoria. It is an effective evidence-based treatment for opioid dependence – whether dependence on over-the-counter codeine, prescription opioids or illicit opioids.
- We strongly encourage all pharmacists to participate in the **Module 1** and **Module 2** training provided by **Pharmaceutical society of Australia (PSA)**.
- The [North West Melbourne Pharmacotherapy Network](#) is available to assist and guide you as you set up and implement your **pharmacotherapy program**.
- Remember, all prescriptions for pharmacotherapy require a **DHHS permit** and **identification of a dosing pharmacy**.

Support for Pharmacies

- 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

PSA – Guild Codeine Hub

www.psa.org.au/codeine/education
www.guild.org.au/training

The PSA and Pharmacy Guild have jointly developed specialised online training modules and tools available to all pharmacists and pharmacy staff (members and non-members).

Training modules will be released over time. Resources include a pharmacy checklist, pharmacist factsheets, consumer factsheets, pain management pathway and codeine counter card. Non-members will be required to create temporary login details.

N.B. Some resources are restricted to members only

Victorian PHN Alliance and Pharmacotherapy Networks

<http://vphna.org.au/codeine-changes/>

The Victorian PHNs and Pharmacotherapy networks have combined to curate the most relevant information for health professionals regarding Codeine rescheduling.

TGA Codeine Hub

www.tga.gov.au/codeine-info-hub

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.

National Prescribing Service (NPS)

www.nps.org.au/medical-info/clinical-topics/over-the-counter-codeine-changes-to-supply

Dedicated NPS codeine page containing articles, resources and links to assist health professionals to prepare for codeine rescheduling.

Pain Australia

www.painaustralia.org.au

Education and resources about acute, chronic and cancer pain management.

Clinical Advice

Drug and Alcohol Clinical Advisory Service (DACAS)

1800 812 804

www.dacas.org.au

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.

Local and State-wide treatment and referral services

North and West Metro AOD Service

1800 700 514

<http://www.regen.org.au/treatment-support/north-and-west-metro-aod-service>

Intake and Assessment services across Melbourne's North and West Metro regions.

Australian Community Support Organisation

1300 022 760

**If in Shire of Macedon Ranges*

Intake and Referral Service across regional Victoria to assist people experiencing mental health, alcohol and drugs issues

Information and support about pharmacotherapy

North West Melbourne Pharmacotherapy Network

(03) 9448 5511

pharmacotherapy@cohealth.org.au

Supports pharmacists and GPs to provide pharmacotherapy services and best practice opioid management.

For all enquiries:

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