



Pharmaceutical Services, 2 Franklin Street, Belfast BT2 8DQ
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To: All Community Pharmacists

20/12/21

Dear colleague

**FAO Contractors Providing Opioid Substitution Treatment (OST):
Prescribing and Dispensing of Methadone tablets**

It has been agreed that methadone tablets may only be prescribed for **OST** in exceptional circumstances where the prescriber deems it appropriate to ensure the patient's compliance and/or safety.

To facilitate the processing of these prescription forms, BSO will require the prescriber to endorse "**Special circumstances methadone tablets prescribed**" on the main body of the prescription form.

Please note that the BSO will return any forms which have not been endorsed in the appropriate manner, where methadone tablets have been prescribed for **OST**.

We also ask that contractors **diamond** the prescriptions for methadone tablets, when prescribed for **OST**. Contractors should also endorse on the main body of the prescription in the normal manner for claiming supervised and unsupervised dispensing fees.

If you have any queries regarding the new arrangements please do not hesitate to contact Mark Nelson on 028 9536 3703 or email mark.nelson@hscni.net.

Yours sincerely

Ms Kathryn Turner

Head of Professional Pharmacy Services