



# **Pathways to Recovery Warrington**

**Guidance for  
Warrington Pharmacies**

**April 2019**

### **Office base**

Pathways to Recovery  
14–16 Bold Street (opposite Warrington Library)  
Warrington  
Cheshire  
WA1 1DE

### **Opening Hours**

**Monday** 09:00 – 17:00

**Tuesday** 09:00 – 19:00

**Wednesday** 09:00 – 17:00

**Thursday** 09:00 – 17:00

**Friday** 09:00 – 17:00

**Saturday**, 09:00 – 13:00

### **How to Contact Us?**

Direct Prescribing Enquiries: **01925 445434**

General Enquiries: **01925 415176**

Out of Hours 24/7 Enquiries: **07919 558644**

Our out of hours number is managed by a recovery worker, who has access to service user electronic case notes and prescribing regime information.

### **Services available**

Specialist drop-in advice and information around substance misuse, harm reduction and abstinence based treatment

Psychosocial one-to-one and POD working interventions

Substitute prescribing for opiate dependence

Access to community and inpatient alcohol and drug detoxifications

Needle exchange and harm reduction advice

Healthcare clinics

Blood borne virus testing (Hepatitis B, Hepatitis C and HIV)

Hepatitis B and flu vaccinations

Sexual health advice and support, including chlamydia and gonorrhoea screening

Alcohol use assessments

Community outreach and attrition (home visiting)

A&E in-reach service

Criminal justice interventions, including prison in-reach

Counselling services

Pregnancy clinics

Recovery Hub – Structured through care and after care

Volunteer and peer mentor training and opportunities

### **The Team**

The staff structure is made up of 5 teams as follows:

1) Engagement Team

4) Building Recovery in Communities Team

2) Alcohol Team

5) Admin Team

3) Opiates and Non-Opiates Team

6) Clinical Team

### **Open Access Assessment**

All new service users can attend for the open access assessment clinic at Pathways. They will initially be seen by the Pathways assessment team, and an appointment will then be arranged with the clinical team. The assessment clinic is open access, and appointments are not needed. Service users can self-refer or be referred by other agencies. For more information about referrals into Pathways, please visit our website at <https://www.changegrowlive.org/content/pathways-recovery-warrington>.

### **Community Titration Clinic**

Once a service user has been assessed by our assessment team, they will be reviewed by our medical officer or NMP who will, where required, agree a prescribing regime. In the majority of cases the client will be suitable for a community titration at their local dispensing pharmacy. If this is the case you will be contacted by the service user's recovery coordinator, who will inform you that the client will be presenting for titration. Their prescription will clearly state titration prescription on it. If for whatever reason the service user misses any prescribed dose in the three days preceding an increase, please contact Pathways for advice and information.

All newly titrated service users (unless they have transferred from one medication to another i.e. methadone to buprenorphine) will be initially placed on daily supervised consumption. Historically, this period of titration was 12 weeks, however, this may now be shorter, if engagement is good, the service user is providing urine samples clear of illicit drug use and is receiving a therapeutic dosage. Urine testing is conducted at Pathways to ensure compliance with prescribed medication, ensure safer prescribing and reduce diversion of prescribed controlled medications.

The Opiate Brief Intervention (OBI) programme was introduced in October 2017, and aims to increase face-to-face psychosocial interventions for service users during titration/retitration onto Opiate Substitute Treatment (OST) and ensure that optimal dosing of OST is achieved within the shortest timeframe, whilst ensuring prescribing is safe. Service users on the OBI programme are urine tested weekly, can receive prescribing reviews and collect weekly prescriptions from Pathways for a period of six weeks or shorter, if agreed by the medical officer or non-medical prescriber.

### **'Missed Pick-Ups'**

When a service user fails to collect their prescribed opiate substitute therapy, or 'misses a pickup'/'several pickups' in a short period of time, this could be an early warning sign that a service user is experiencing difficulties e.g. illicit use, therefore it is essential that we are informed within 24 hours of a missed pickup so that we can identify additional support requirements. The current process is:

Pharmacies should submit 'notifications of missed collections' via Pharmoutcomes system for those receiving supervised or unsupervised doses. This should ideally be completed on the day of the missed appointment, so that actions required can be agreed by the Pathways team the following morning, or within 24 hours. It is essential that this action is completed for those on less frequent collections e.g. if SU A failed to collect 3-days of medication on 01/04/2019, a notification should be submitted for a day missed collection on 01/04/2019 and if SU A failed to present on 02/04/2019 to collect the remaining dose, a missed collection notification should be submitted again on 02/04/2019 etc.

### **Prescription Dispensing Dates**

Medication should only be dispensed on the date stated on the prescription, if for whatever reason a service fails to attend the specified day, they can attend the following day to collect the remainder of their prescription if the following wording is specified on the prescription:

*'If an instalment's collection day had been missed, please still dispense the amount due for any remaining days of that instance.'*

### **Three Consecutive Missed Prescription Doses**

If a service user misses three or more consecutive days of their medication then the client has officially 'fell off' their prescription and **should not** be dispensed to, as there is a risk of overdose due to a reduction in tolerance levels. If this occurs and the service user presents then please advise them to contact their recovery coordinator or present to the duty team.

### **Service User Presentation**

If a service user presents clearly under the influence of drugs and/or alcohol, and you are concerned about whether to dispense to them or not, please contact Pathways for advice on how to proceed. We may suggest that the service user's dose is withheld, or we request that the service user attends Pathways to be breathalysed.

### **Locum Pharmacists**

**To ensure the safety of our service users, it is essential that locum pharmacists are informed of the procedures around the dispensing of medication. In line with signed agreements, locum pharmacists must inform us of any missed pickups. We recommend that this document and attached guidance are included within a brief induction.**

### **Batch Prescriptions**

A batch of prescriptions is produced fortnightly and signed by a medical officer or non-medical prescriber at Pathways. The prescriptions are sent out before the prescription dispensing start date. They are grouped into pharmacies and are hand delivered by courier to each individual pharmacy with a covering letter which details:

- Prescribed medication
- The names of the service users
- The dates that the prescriptions cover

### **Pharmacists are asked to check the following:**

- All prescriptions are correct and 'follow-on' from previous prescriptions correctly
- Whether there are any errors or some prescriptions are missing

Pharmacists are then asked to confirm that the prescriptions have been received by signing and dating the letter from Pathways and faxing it back to Pathways.

If you normally receive prescriptions by Courier from Pathways and none have arrived, please contact us a.s.a.p. on the numbers above.