

Methadone Information

Your Safety and the Safety of Everyone



Methadone, when taken as prescribed is safe. Methadone taken by *any individual it is NOT prescribed to*, can be deadly; and when mixed with other drugs, can be deadly; and in the hands of a child, is most certainly deadly.

Why?

Because it is often difficult to know what other drugs including prescription medications others are being prescribed including herbal/ natural medications; and because unless you are a pharmacist or an experienced physician who is knowledgeable about METHADONE you truly don't know what will happen when medications are mixed.

Treatment Rules and Regulations clearly state:

"It is extremely important that medication (this means METHADONE!) be stored in a VERY secure place away from children once the patient takes it to their home. It is not advisable to store the medication in the refrigerator unless it is in a locked, childproof container." "Patients are not to give away... (Take) home medications (methadone)." It is clearly stated in Rules and Regulations that "Children cannot be held while dosing." "...The mixing of chemicals may be harmful or fatal." This is why Locked boxes must meet stringent criteria; to protect you, *and* those around you.

Methadone is a Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressant.

This means that Methadone slows down all your central nervous systems including breathing, heart rate. Some medications should **NEVER** be taken with methadone because they too are CNS depressants. These include alcohol, Benzodiazepines, Naltrexone, Soma, other Opiates and Barbiturates. These drugs taken together potentiate or add to each other: ***1+1 no longer = 2; it equals 5 or more*** If you are a child or anyone the drug is NOT prescribed for you may not know you are in danger as your heart slows, and your breathing becomes shallower and then you die. Methadone like any over the counter prescription medication should always be kept safely away from children and other adults. ***Methadone is never to be taken by children; it could easily cause death by overdose.***

Why should I not be able to give a child Methadone?

- Because METHADONE IS NOT PRESCRIBED FOR ANY CHILD. Because it can kill a child or anyone it is not prescribed to.
- Because it is your responsibility to KEEP YOUR medications safely stored away in a LOCKED box and away from all others.
- Methadone has ***proven fatal in the wrong hands***, or if taken by anyone other than you.
- Methadone has ***proven fatal if taken in conjunction with many other drugs.***
- Ultimately you will pay the price if something goes horribly wrong and it was *your* methadone.

Methadone is not safe for other adults either. It takes hours for the effects of methadone to peak. By the time the user feels the full effect of what they have taken, the result could be lethal overdose/death.

The methadone that you take is safe if:

- It is not taken with other CNS depressant drugs or herbal medicines.
- You have reported all drugs and herbs you are taking to your methadone doctor; *and* you take them as prescribed.
- You have registered all drugs and herbal medicines you are taking at the clinic.
- Your methadone physician makes sure ***you are receiving the right dose based on your tolerance or addiction to other opiates that are reported.***
- Your methadone dose is increased slowly each week until you are stable.
It takes about a week to fully feel the effects of those dose increases.

It is your responsibility to keep your methadone doses in your locked box at all times; and to ensure it is safe from ALL children and adults.

Keeping your methadone safe is:

Your commitment to your program and your recovery.