

**BrisDoc Healthcare Services**

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## **Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire GP OOH Service**

### **Position Statement on Issuing Methadone Prescriptions**

#### **Purpose**

This document confirms the current BrisDoc policy on issuing patients with methadone prescriptions via the GP Out of Hours Service.

#### **Position Statement**

Substitute prescribing for patients with substance misuse e.g. Methadone and Buprenorphine (Subutex) is offered by General Practice. This can lead to an expectation that the GP Out of Hours Service will similarly offer this service. However there are increased risks in issuing such prescriptions via the Out of Hours Service when the patient is not known to OOH and such prescribing could be subject to potential abuse. As such the OOH Service will only prescribe if it can be confirmed with the patient's normal pharmacy (i.e. they are still open) that there has been a professional mistake by the patient's own GP or the pharmacy that means that medications that have been prescribed by the patient's own GP cannot be safely dispensed. As such the request should come directly from the pharmacy rather than via NHS 111

If a prescription is requested for any other reason the OOH Service will not prescribe and has no responsibility to do so. Patients should be referred to dedicated substance misuse services that are provided to respond to such circumstances.

#### **Operational and Clinical Management of Requests**

All requests for methadone or subutex prescribing will be directed to the Clinical Co-ordinator. Any patients requesting a methadone prescription who are transferred to GP OOH via NHS 111 should be forwarded to the Clinical Co-ordinator queue for advice and management.

**Dr Iain Crofton-Briggs**  
**Medical Director**  
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