



St. Vincent's Hospital, Melbourne
Australia



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HEALTH AUSTRALIA

MATOD – 'A Tasmanian Perspective'

22 March 2022

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Overview



MATOD in Tasmania

MATOD policy and clinical practice standards

Tasmanian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program (TOPP) - 2012

- *Currently being updated along LAIB inclusion/policy*
- *Reform agenda and Drug Strategy 2021-27*

DORA – Drugs and Poisons Information System Online Remote Access

Pharmaceutical Services Branch

Involuntary detention and treatment

Repeal of legislation; treatment not included in legislation





Tasmanian Perspective

Opioid Use in Tasmania

Heroin use in Tasmania is not common

In the past, Physeptone use in Tasmania was at a rate of almost 250% the national average

Currently, Oxycodone use is growing

- ABC News*: Hobart tops country in opioids in latest wastewater drug monitoring report (Oxycodone and Fentanyl); Commentary - population 20% > 65yr age?

* https://www.abc.net.au/news/2022-03-16/wastewater-drugs-hobart-highest-oxycodone-fentanyl-use/100913850?utm_campaign=abc_news_web&utm_content=link&utm_medium=content_shared&utm_source=abc_news_web



Tasmanian Perspective

Private prescribers

Methadone, Suboxone and Subutex only

Nil LAIB

Nil publicly available list of private prescribers; bulk billing GPs in Tasmania is very limited



Tasmanian Perspective

Alcohol and Drug Services within the State

Three locations (South-Hobart; North-Launceston; Northwest-Ulverstone)

- ADS services South (St Johns Park: Community outreach, Opioid Pharmacotherapy team, Inpatient Withdrawal Unit and State dispensing pharmacy for MATOD (reserved for unstable/high risk patients and Royal Hobart Hospital: C/L team)

ADS South Pharmacotherapy ~320 patients on MATOD, including LAIB (~15%)

- Patient waiting list of ~50-60 patients > 6 months (all MATOD patients ADS case managed); currently significant efforts towards ending wait times
- LAIB depot via ADS & Tasmanian Aboriginal Health Services only
 - Buprenorphine only; Sublocade compassionate grounds only (policy being updated)



Tasmanian Perspective

Tasmanian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program (TOPP)

Framework for ORT

Legal Opioid Replacement Medications

- Methadone (syrup) – up to 120mg/day
- Subutex and Suboxone – up to 32mg/day; double/triple dosing up to 32mg allowed
- Buprenorphine Depot up to 128mg Monthly

Maximum of TWO non-consecutive take-aways (T/As) after 6 months of clinical stability for Methadone/Buprenorphine formulations. Nil T/As if double/triple dosing on buprenorphine.

- *Benzodiazepines – patient ineligible for take-away doses if receiving >5mg equivalent daily dose of Diazepam*
- *Buprenorphine formulations – special consideration 3 T/As or consecutive T/As*

Tasmanian Perspective

Tasmanian Opioid Pharmacotherapy Program (TOPP)

COVID-19 prescribing and risk stratification:

- Buprenorphine up to 4 T/As and Methadone up to 3 T/As (non-consecutive)

Based on the *Interim guidance for the delivery of medication assisted treatment of opioid dependence in response to COVID-19: a national response*

ADS Tasmania risk assessment for amended prescribing during COVID-19				
Criteria	Risk			
	LOW	MODERATE	HIGH	Absolute Contraindication
Treatment				
Methadone daily dose	< 40mg	40–120 mg	> 120 mg	n/a
Buprenorphine daily dose	< 16 mg	16 – 32 mg	n/a	n/a
Treatment compliance (months)				
Time in treatment	> 6	3 – 6	< 3	Methadone < 28 days Buprenorphine < 14 days
Lost, stolen t/a or diversion in last x months	None	> 24	12 – 24	< 12
Missed doses last 4 weeks	None	1 – 3	4	> 1 per week
Drug use (months)				
Time since last overdose	None	> 24	12 – 24	< 12
Time since last other substance misuse	None	> 3	1 – 3	< 1
Time since last intravenous substance misuse	None	> 6	3 – 6	< 3
Time since last significant self-harm	None	> 24	12 – 24	< 12
Time since last intoxicated presentation	None	> 12	3 – 12	< 3
Current alcohol use	Low risk	Hazardous	Harmful	Dependence
Social				
Home situation (vulnerable self or others, i.e. children)	Stable	At risk	Unstable	High risk to others or self
Safe storage	Yes	n/a	n/a	No
Accommodation	Stable	At risk	Unstable	No fixed address
Total of 13				Any score in this column precludes take away doses



Tasmanian Perspective

State dispensing pharmacy (co-located with pharmacotherapy team)

Nil cost for medications (e.g. LAIB and/or daily dispensing of MATOD / other medications)

Only meant for unstable patients or those on LAIB

Also, access to immunisations, e.g. Hep B



Tasmanian Perspective

DORA - Drugs and Poisons Information System Online Remote Access

Real-time monitoring commenced in 2009

- MATOD permits
- Only lists S8s along with Alprazolam
 - Likely to be expanded to other benzodiazepines
 - Unlikely to include Quetiapine and Pregabalin

Tasmanian Perspective

Involuntary detention and treatment

Alcohol and Drug Dependency Act 1968 (the ADDA)

- Admission and detention for up to 6 months
- Treatment only if patient consents

Alcohol and Drug Dependency Repeal Bill 2019

Currently, *Guardianship and Administration Act* would be required to admit, detain and treat

Interstate transfers (con't)

Client Agreement for Interstate Transfer

The rules around Methadone, Suboxone and Subutex treatment in Tasmania are different to where you are now. Here are some things you need to know before coming to Tasmania:

- We provide Methadone, Suboxone or Subutex
- You will have to go to a Pharmacy to get your dose
- There aren't many pharmacies available for dosing in Tasmania – you might need to travel a long way to the nearest available pharmacy
- You will take your medication in front of a Pharmacist
- You will not be able to have takeaways for at least three (3) months
- We need to assess how well you are going in treatment before you might get takeaways
- If you are able to have takeaways we will only provide a maximum of two (2) per week
- Regular contact with your Doctor and Case Manager is an important part of the program
- We will not prescribe Benzodiazepines. If you are already taking Benzodiazepines we will work with you to stop
- Split dosing for Methadone cannot be offered in Tasmania
- The biggest daily dose of methadone offered in Tasmania is 120 milligrams (mg)
- I understand that the Alcohol and Drug Service will use de-identified data from this referral for feedback, research and service improvement. De-identified means that no one will be able to tell that the information is about me

I have read, understood and discussed with my General Practitioner / Doctor / Case Manager the above.

Questions?



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Thank You

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