



Promoting the appropriate use,  
and reducing the abuse and misuse of monitored drugs in Nova Scotia.

## Important Information for Pharmacy Teams

### Missed OAT Doses and Patient Safety

#### Reversal of Missed Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Doses

The NSPMP has received reports of safety concerns involving missed OAT doses during poor weather conditions and/or pharmacy closures. Patients unable to access their pharmacy may present to Emergency Departments or other pharmacies for their dose. If the dose was not picked up or reversed, the NS DIS/PMP eAccess systems may show that the dose was already dispensed, when in fact the patient may not have received it. This creates a potential risk of double dosing, which can be life-threatening for patients on high-dose OAT.

#### Action by Pharmacies

To support safe and accurate care, **pharmacies should reverse any missed OAT doses before closing each day.**

This includes situations where:

- a patient does not present for their dose
- a dose is withheld for clinical or safety reasons
- a pharmacy is closed early or is inaccessible and the patient did not receive their dose

Accurate same-day reversals support safe decision-making across ERs and pharmacies when patients seek their dose at another location.

Our Pharmacist Consultant, Holly d'Entremont, is available as a resource to you. Feel free to contact her at 902-496-3636.

Please contact the NSPMP at 902-496-7123 or 1-877-476-7767 if you require further clarification or visit the website at [www.nspmp.ca](http://www.nspmp.ca).