

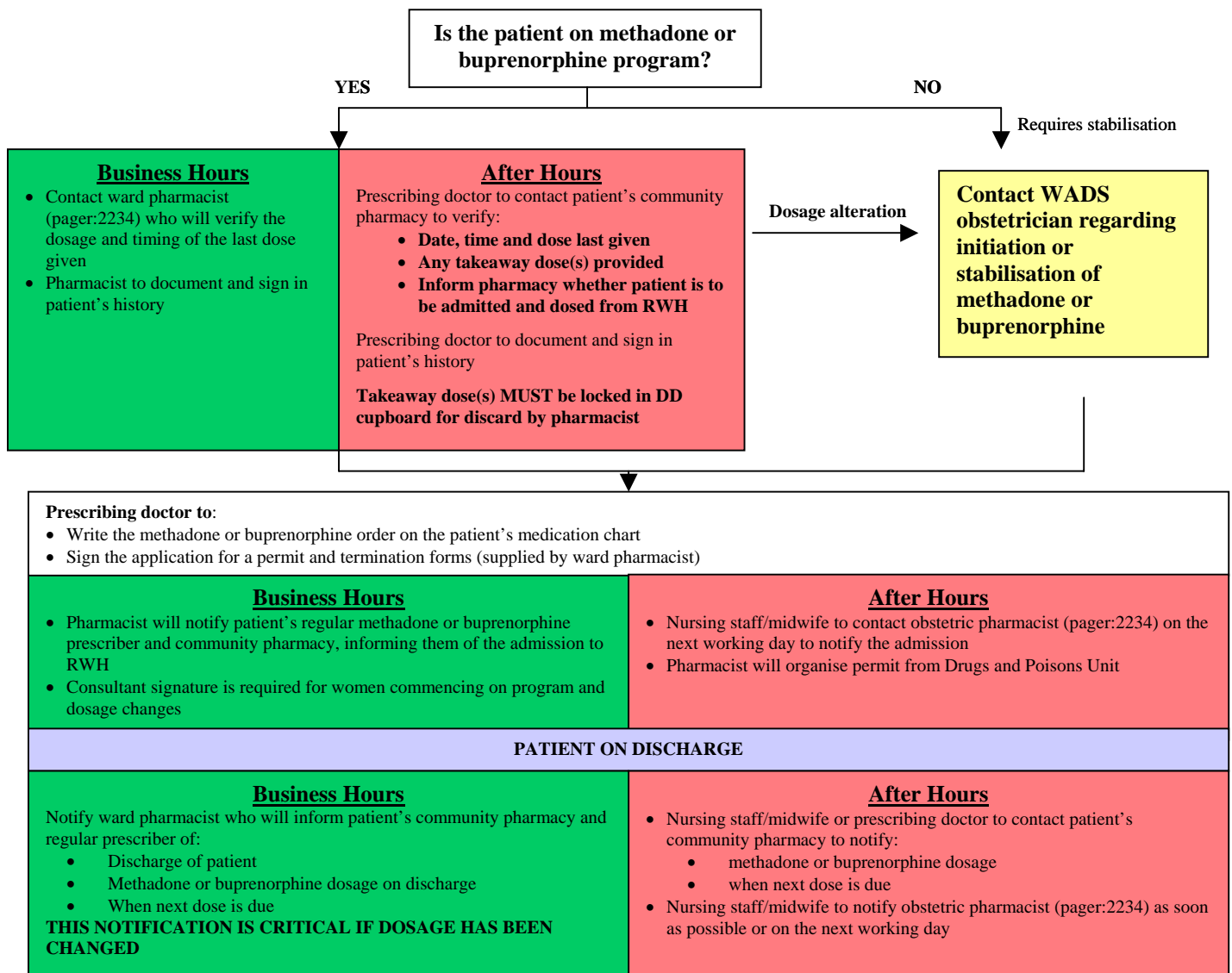


Methadone and Buprenorphine Dosing Procedures

- Pregnant women with drug and alcohol issues are admitted to hospital for obstetric indications; assessment of their current drug use; and for methadone or buprenorphine stabilisation.
- When admitting a WADS (Women's Alcohol and Drug Service) patient, please inform WADS of the admission, and contact WADS obstetrician for complex drug and alcohol related issues.
- For medical staffs who are not registered methadone or buprenorphine prescriber, **ANY ADJUSTMENTS TO THE METHADONE or BUPRENORPHINE DOSAGE MUST BE DISCUSSED WITH WADS OBSTETRICIAN.**
- For patients who are currently on methadone/buprenorphine, **DO NOT** prescribe any of the following as a routine:
 - **Benzodiazepines** eg. diazepam, oxazepam, temazepam, alprazolam, nitrazepam
 - **Codeine-containing medications** eg. Panadeine®, Panadeine Forte®, Aspalgin®
 - **Antipsychotics** eg. chlorpromazine, lithium, risperidone
 - **Opioids** eg. oxycodone, morphine, fentanyl, pethidine, tramadol

These medications will potentiate the effects of methadone and buprenorphine with possibly harmful consequences. Pain relief for these women should not be withheld, but narcotics need to be used with care. As buprenorphine is a partial opiate agonist, analgesia with other opiates is not effective.
- If a patient is on buprenorphine, enter details into the Victorian Buprenorphine in Pregnancy Register on WADS Website or phone 3631 and leave a message.
- WADS obstetrician is available at all times to answer queries and discuss management issues:
Dr Ian McCahon (pager: 2584) Dr Georgina Chin (pager 2938) Dr Jeremy Oats (pager: 3302)

Methadone and Buprenorphine Inpatient Admission Procedures



Methadone and Buprenorphine Dosing Procedures for Outpatients

- Prescribers have to organise application for permits from Drugs and Poisons Unit of the Department of Human Services
- Application forms are available on the Department of Human Services website or from Pharmacy Department
- Pharmacy can assist in faxing application forms to the Department of Human Services
- As a routine, RWH does not administer methadone or buprenorphine to outpatients
- Patients who present at Emergency Department after hours should be admitted for stabilisation or ongoing management.