

# IMPORTANT CONSIDERATIONS

## Pharmacist Considerations for Pregnant Persons Prescribed OAT



### STOP AND CONSIDER

When administering medication, complete a pre-assessment of the patient, including:

- Assess for signs of intoxication
- Prior administration of other medications that have the potential to interact with methadone or buprenorphine, such as:
  - medications that are sedating
  - medications that inhibit methadone or buprenorphine metabolism
- If the first administration of OAT is as an inpatient, consider:
  - the dose, date and time of the last ingestion of substances

### Signs of Intoxication

- slurred speech
- impaired coordination
- mental signs
  - disorientation
  - confusion
  - over sedation
- Physical signs
  - pinpoint pupils



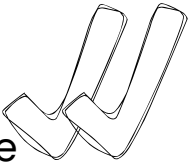
### Missed or Vomited a dose?

- During the perinatal period, there is an increased chance of vomiting
- Contact the prescriber before administering any additional doses
- **Comprehensive Summary Section 2: Table: Missed and Vomited Dose Recommendations**

Vomited Dose Recommendations
<b>Methadone</b>
As pregnancy is a time for potential frequent episodes of emesis, it is important to understand the recommendations for maintaining methadone dosing: Should a patient vomit the dose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>IF the emesis has been witnessed by a healthcare provider and occurred within 15 minutes of the observed dose</b> Offer one replacement dose of methadone (<b>replacement dose = 50 percent of the regular dose</b>)</li><li>• Should the patient continue to have frequent episodes of emesis, healthcare providers may wish to consider recommending <b>spreading the dose over 30 minutes</b> with observation for 15-20 minutes following the dose.</li></ul>
<b>Buprenorphine</b>
As buprenorphine is sublingual there is no concern of vomiting doses.

### Double Check

- Check with the patient the dosage they are ordered
- Complete an independent check with another healthcare provider
- Finally witness the ingestion
  - ask the patient to speak after taking the dose
  - ask the patient to drink water after the dose



### Dose Changes

- The community OAT prescriber manages doses.
- Often, in pregnancy, dosages need to be increased
- Often, in the postpartum period, dosages need to be decreased
- **ANY DOSE ADJUSTMENTS ARE TO BE MADE IN CONSULTATION WITH THE COMMUNITY OAT PRESCRIBER**