

NIHB Update for First Nations and Inuit Health Branch- Ontario Region

Changes to Methadone Maintenance Treatment

A new form of methadone called Methadose® is going to be used for your methadone maintenance treatment (MMT).

How will this change affect NIHB clients?

Methadone is a drug that can be used to help reduce withdrawal symptoms and drug cravings in people who are dealing with drug addiction. Methadone used to be available only in a powder form that needed to be prepared by a pharmacist before it could be taken. Methadone is now offered in a liquid form called Methadose®, which no longer needs this preparation. Methadose® will still be mixed with Tang but may taste slightly different than the previous methadone preparation. **As of June 26, 2014**, Methadose® is covered by the Non-Insured Health Benefits Program. Pharmacies may start to use Methadose® for your MMT prescription.

What is not different about Methadose®?

You should not notice many changes, if any at all. You will still take the same amount of methadone each day for your treatment. You should always continue to follow the directions that your pharmacist and/or physician give for taking your methadone prescription. There are no increased risks than what you have already been told about with taking methadone. All side effects and precautions may still apply. All other pharmacy procedures will remain the same such as witnessing doses and signing for dose allowed for home ingestion. Because Methadose® is now available, as of September 1, 2014, pharmacists will no longer be allowed to prepare and dispense the powder form of methadone. It will also no longer be covered by the NIHB Program in Ontario. Exceptions can be made if patients develop allergies to Methadose®. Clients are encouraged to speak with their health prescribers if they have further questions.