

DANOS AH1 Prescribe controlled drugs for substance misusers

This unit is about prescribing controlled drugs – eg methadone, other opiates or other controlled drugs – to substance users as part of their treatment plan. It covers both reduction and maintenance prescribing. It covers both preparing the prescriptions and helping substance users understand the importance of complying with their treatment regime.

Name of applicant:

I confirm that I am the line manager / supervisor for the above named.

I have assessed the applicant's competence in relation to each of the numbered items listed overleaf and have placed my initials against each numbered item to indicate my satisfaction that the applicant has demonstrated the competence to which it refers (see notes below).

My assessment of the applicant's competence in this unit is based on the following (see notes below):

Name:

Signed:

Date:

Notes

You should 'sign off' the applicant's competence in relation to each of the items listed below only where you have *clear evidence* that they have demonstrated the appropriate knowledge or skills in *real life* settings. Your assessment should be based on one or more of the following: observation of the applicant's practice, your supervision of the applicant, evidence provided by an appropriate third party (such as clients / colleagues / previous supervisor/line manager). Note - completion of a training course does NOT itself provide evidence of competence in a particular area.

In some cases the applicant will not have the opportunity within their existing position to demonstrate all of the required competences. Where this is the case arrangements will need to be made for their competence to be assessed in an alternative setting (such as on placement), or, where applicable, for it to be confirmed by a supervisor / line manager from a previous post.

Performance criteria

To perform to the standard you must ensure that:

1. you keep prescription forms in a safe place and maintain an audit trail of prescriptions for all controlled drugs
2. you check that dependency has been confirmed using a combination of clinical assessment and laboratory testing
3. you liaise with other services and check the individual's medical history and that no other clinician is prescribing controlled drugs for the individual
4. you only prescribe controlled drugs (eg methadone, other opiates or other controlled drugs) to substance users as part of a wider treatment plan with specific goals and as an enhancement to other psychological, social and medical interventions
5. you prescribe controlled drugs in line with the individual's treatment plan and condition (eg drug dependency, co-morbidity, other medication taken by the individual)
6. you follow guidelines and protocols, where available, in selecting the type of medication, induction regime, dosage and frequency of administration
7. you consult an appropriate clinical supervisor, if you are unsure about the medication to be prescribed or your level of competence in prescribing it
8. where required, you obtain a licence for prescribing the controlled drug
9. you state, on the correct form for prescribing controlled drugs:
 - the individual's name and address
 - the name of the controlled drug
 - the form and the strength of the preparation
 - the total quantity of the preparation (the number of dose units) in both words and figures
 - the dose
 - the number and frequency of instalments, if the controlled drug is to be dispensed by instalments
 - any requirement for the consumption of the medication to be supervised
10. you write the prescription in your own handwriting, in ink, unless you have a specific handwriting exemption from the Home Office
11. there is no blank space on the form in which the individual could add further items
12. you sign and date the prescription
13. you agree the dispensing regime and liaise regularly with the pharmacist about the specific individual and the prescribing regime
14. you make yourself available to take emergency telephone calls from the pharmacist in cases of a prescription error
15. you record the prescription for controlled drugs on the appropriate monitoring record
16. records of the individual's treatment are available only to those authorised to see them
17. you take part in regular clinical reviews of the individual's progress including compliance with the prescribing regime
18. you review your prescribing practice in view of new guidelines and/or evidence

Knowledge and Understanding

To perform competently in this unit, you need to know and understand:

Assessment and testing

1. how to make a clinical assessment and carry out tests to establish the individual's dependence

Communication

1. the importance of regular liaison with other services involved, and appropriate ways of maintaining this liaison

Drugs and medication

1. national guidelines and local protocols for the prescription of controlled drugs
2. types, properties, functions, effects, indications and contra-indications of controlled drugs that can be used in the treatment of drug dependency
3. methods of drug administration
4. how to calculate the correct dose of medication and frequency of administration
5. how to relate the prescription to the individual's condition and treatment plan
6. when a licence is required for prescribing a controlled drug and how to obtain one
7. the correct form to be used when prescribing controlled drugs and the information required
8. the importance of keeping prescription forms in a safe place
9. the importance of supervising the consumption of controlled drugs
10. the importance of regular liaison with the dispensing pharmacist
11. how to record prescriptions clearly and accurately on appropriate documentation
12. how to review your prescribing practice in view of new guidelines and/or evidence

Information handling

1. the importance of keeping full, legible and accurate records in date order, and how to do so
2. the principle of confidentiality under data protection legislation: what information may be given to whom

Monitoring and evaluation

1. the importance of carrying out regular clinical reviews of the individual's progress & how to do so
2. the importance of carrying out regular reviews of your own prescribing practice, and how to do so

Organisational context

1. organisational requirements and policies relevant to the functions being carried out
2. an appropriate clinical supervisor to consult when you are unsure about the medication to be prescribed or your level of competence in prescribing it

Substance misuse

1. the range of different substances and their effects
2. the importance of only prescribing controlled drugs to substance users as part of a wider treatment plan and how the use of controlled drugs complements other psychological, social and medical interventions

FDAP Drug & Alcohol Professional Certification
Workplace Assessment