



## ADULT MEDICATION GUIDELINE

# Methadone

**Scope (Staff):** All WNHS Staff

**Scope (Area):** Obstetrics and Gynaecology

This document should be read in conjunction with the [Disclaimer](#).

### Quick Links

[Dose](#)

[Administration](#)

[Monitoring](#)

[Pregnancy and Breastfeeding](#)

### Restrictions

[Formulary: Restricted](#)

[HIGH RISK Medication](#) 

### Medication Class

Opioid analgesic

### Presentation

**Tablet:** 10mg

**Vial:** 10mg/mL

**Oral Liquid:** 5mg/mL (10mL containers)

**Oral Syrup:** 5mg/mL (Aspen®)

### Storage

Store at room temperature, below 25°C

**Schedule 8 Medication**

### Dose

Refer to relevant [WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines](#) for appropriate dose regimens (links below)

## Administration

### Oral

Can be given with or without food

### IV injection

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)

### IM injection

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)

### Subcutaneous injection

Refer to the [Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook](#)

## Monitoring

Sedation score, respiratory rate

## Pregnancy

**1<sup>st</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use

**2<sup>nd</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use

**3<sup>rd</sup> Trimester:** Considered safe to use

## Breastfeeding

Considered safe to use

## Comments

Methadone has complex pharmacokinetics and inter-patient variability; calculating equianalgesic doses to other opioids and routes is difficult. Consult a pain specialist.

## Related Policies, Procedures & Guidelines

### **HDWA Mandatory Policies:**

[Medicines Handling Policy MP0139/20](#)

[Recording of Schedule 8 and Schedule 9 transactions in an approved register](#)

[Storage of Schedule 8 medicines](#)

**NMHS Policies:**

[Administration of Schedule 8 \(S8\) and Schedule 4 Restricted \(S4R\) Medicines](#)

**WNHS Clinical Practice Guidelines:**

[Women and Newborn Drug and Alcohol Service \(WANDAS\)](#)

[Palliative Care](#)

**WNHS Pharmaceutical and Medicines Management Guidelines:**

[Community Programme for Opioid Pharmacotherapy \(CPOP\) Management in Hospital](#)

[Medication Administration](#)









[Restricted Schedule 4 \(S4R\) and Schedule 8 \(S8\) Medications Policy and Procedure](#)

## References

Australian Medicines Handbook. Methadone. In: Australian Medicines Handbook [Internet]. Adelaide (South Australia): Australian Medicines Handbook; 2023 [cited 2023 Mar 27]. Available from: <https://amhonline.amh.net.au/>

Society of Hospital Pharmacists of Australia. Methadone. In: Australian Injectable Drugs Handbook [Internet]. [St Leonards, New South Wales]: Health Communication Network; 2023 [cited 2023 Mar 27]. Available from: <http://aidh.hcn.com.au>

The Royal Women's Hospital. Methadone. In: Pregnancy and Breastfeeding Medicines Guide [Internet]. Parkville (Victoria): The Royal Women's Hospital; 2022 [cited 2023 Mar 27]. Available from: <https://thewomenspbmg.org.au/>

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