



## Street Methadone

Street methadone is methadone that is sold or given to someone who it was not prescribed to by a doctor.

Methadone is an opioid, yet it can be prescribed to treat opioid addiction. Methadone is used as opioid addiction treatment because it blocks the high from other opioids and helps to prevent opioid cravings. When used as prescribed, it is a safe and effective treatment, allowing you to be able to focus on living a healthy life.

Patients who are prescribed methadone from their doctor are sometimes provided carries which are take-home doses. Sometimes these doses are sold. When methadone is sold or given to someone who it has not been prescribed for, it is VERY dangerous and can be deadly.

## What makes methadone dangerous?

Methadone is a very long-lasting opioid. It can stay in your body for more than 24 hours, making an overdose possible during that entire time, especially when taken in combination with other medications and/or alcohol.

Doctors start patients at a very low dose because methadone can be toxic if your body isn't used to it yet (haven't developed "tolerance").

Like any other opioid, methadone can make you very sleepy and stop breathing if your body is not used to it. **Any amount of methadone can kill a child.**

Follow the **SAVE ME** steps below to respond. If the person must be left unattended at any time, put them in the recovery position.

**Stimulate**  
Unresponsive? CALL 911

**Airway**

**Ventilate**  
1 breath every 5 seconds

**Evaluate**

**Muscular Injection**  
1 ml. of naloxone  
*Continue to provide breaths until the person is breathing on their own*

**Evaluate 2nd dose?**  
*If no response after 3-5 minutes give another injection*

## Why is street methadone particularly dangerous?

Methadone bottles are often labelled with a pharmacy label and a dose so they look trustworthy but you can never be sure what is in the bottle unless it is given to you directly from your pharmacist. Street methadone may be "cut" with other drugs like fentanyl.

**You never know what dangerous medications could be in a street methadone bottle.**

## Is street methadone ever safe?

No, it is NEVER safe. If you are using street methadone, make sure:

- You ALWAYS call 9-11 in an overdose. The *Good Samaritan Drug Overdose Act* protects you from simple drug possession charges when you seek emergency help during an overdose so NEVER be afraid to call 9-11.
- You NEVER use alone. If you overdose, you will need someone to call 9-11 and give you naloxone to reverse the overdose. Remember, methadone is long-lasting and once the naloxone wears off, you can overdose again (even if you don't take more methadone).
- You keep all medication locked up and away from children. Children often think methadone is just juice because it is often mixed with juice from the pharmacy to prevent misuse.
- You NEVER take street methadone with other drugs, including alcohol.



## Is selling methadone illegal?

Yes! If someone buys methadone from you and he/she dies, you could be charged.

You can also be charged if you have someone else's methadone in your possession unless you are authorized to have it by a doctor.

If you sell your methadone, it means that you aren't using your doses as prescribed. If you take your dose after missing doses that have been sold, your body will no longer be used to methadone and you may overdose.

DO NOT SELL YOUR METHADONE. If you have leftover or unused doses, return it to your pharmacy for safe disposal.

## Should you use street methadone?

Street methadone is NOT worth the risk, even if you just want to try it once. An addiction

provider can help select and prescribe a safe treatment for you and get you in touch with other supports that will help you to get your life on track.

To see someone who specializes in addictions, call your local Opioid Assisted Recovery clinic, Harm reduction clinic, Rapid Access to Addiction Medicine (RAAM) clinic or speak with your family doctor.

## Report street methadone

We all need to keep ourselves and our communities safe. **Please report all street methadone to your local police.**

You can also report street methadone to the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan's Hotline anonymously:

**1-800-667-1668.**



## How do you get a naloxone kit?

Take Home Naloxone kits can be purchased from many pharmacies and community organizations all over Saskatchewan. For more information, visit [www.saskatchewan.ca/opioids](http://www.saskatchewan.ca/opioids).

Clients with First Nations and Inuit coverage can receive a kit at no charge without a prescription.

Funded kits can also be obtained from the following locations:

Buffalo Narrows Health Centre  
491 Peterson Ave, Buffalo Narrows  
Phone: 306-235-5822

Estevan Addiction Services  
1174 Nicholson Road, Estevan  
Phone: 306-637-2422

Stepping Stone Wellness Clinic  
Kamsack Hospital and Nursing Home  
341 Stewart Street, Kamsack  
Phone: 306-542-1968

Kindersley and District Health Centre  
1003 1st St West, Kindersley  
Phone: 306-463-1000 Ext. 2560 or 2562

Lloydminster Mental Health & Addictions  
3830 43 Avenue, Lloydminster  
Phone: 306-820-6250 or  
#115 - 4910 50th Street, Lloydminster  
Phone: 306-820-2592

Meadow Lake Mental Health & Addictions  
#8 - 711 Centre Street, Meadow Lake  
Phone: 306-236-1580

Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Melfort Hospital  
510 Broadway Avenue, Melfort  
Phone: 306-752-8767

Crescent View Clinic  
131 1st Avenue NE, Moose Jaw  
Phone: 306-691-6464

Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Nipawin Hospital  
800 - 6th Street East, Nipawin  
Phone: 306-752-8767

Battlefords Sexual Health Clinic  
1192 101st Street, North Battleford  
Phone: 306-446-6463 or 306-441-4556

Access Place  
101-15th St East, Prince Albert  
Phone: 306-765-6542

Communicable Disease Sexual  
Health Program  
2110 Hamilton Street, Regina  
Phone: 306-766-7788

Harm Reduction Methadone Program  
1048 Albert Street, Regina  
Phone: 306-766-6350

Mayfair Clinic  
504 33rd Street West, Saskatoon  
Phone: 306-655-4007

Community Health Services  
El Wood Building, 4th Floor  
350 Cheadle St West, Swift Current  
Phone: 1-877-329-0005

Mental Health and Addiction Services  
Tisdale Hospital  
2010 - 110th Avenue West, Tisdale  
Phone: 306-752-8767

Weyburn Addiction Services  
900 Saskatchewan Drive, Weyburn  
Phone: 306-842-8693

Turning Point Program  
Room 109, SIGN on Broadway  
345 Broadway St West, Yorkton  
Phone: 306-786-0637



**OATP** Opioid Agonist  
Therapy Program

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