

OP47.2

Improving safe storage of methadone in the home. An initiative augmenting the effectiveness of information provision, to keep children safe

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Background: Safe storage of oral methadone at home is an important issue given the risk of accidental paediatric consumption.

Aim: The study aimed to review the effectiveness of current provision of information on safety of methadone consumption and storage in the home. Then to develop and pilot health promotion material regarding safe storage of methadone in the home, through involvement of the service user and dispensing pharmacist opinions, and to look at novel ways to augment this information.

Methods: The study involved patient awareness of general dangers of methadone use and paediatric risks, patient information recall on safe storage of methadone in the home; take home methadone dispensing in child resistant containers and safe and secured storage of methadone. Information was collected using a survey of adult patients attending a specialist primary care clinic (n=94), and interviews with dispensing pharmacists (n=43).

Conclusions: Safe storage of methadone warrants regular and proactive pharmacy provision of information around harms associated with methadone. We have developed a health promotion solution, packaging the information in different ways, thus that the information transfer would become ingrained both in the providers of that information, and those dispensed methadone. These include an A3 waiting room poster, an A5 information booklet, and six interchangeable neck tags for the medicine bottles. The issue presented potential for novel innovations to support the stabilised methadone patient in better self-management. This was achieved by the provision of actual Safe Boxes as an adjunct to the provision of information. This initiative improved communication between the service and its users, as they felt that they were involved from the outset. It fostered a better partnership with primary care pharmacies. It has brought everyone to the table and outlined that we all have a role to play.

http://www.forza.ie/client_area/hse-methadone-child-safety-campaign/