Opioid Management

Transitional Shared Care Framework
It is recognised that a large percentage of opioid replacement therapy (ORT) patients who are currently managed by a limited number of specialist pharmacotherapy prescribing GPs would be suitable for continued treatment in the community by their regular GP. Patients often achieve stability in most areas of their life once their dependency on opioids has been resolved. This framework is designed to assist the patient’s regular GP to be able to take over ORT prescribing with the guidance and mentoring of a specialist ORT prescribing GP.

What are the benefits of a Transitional Shared Care Framework?
There are multiple benefits to transitional shared care:

- Normalisation and de-stigmatisation of ORT in the primary healthcare sector.
- Enhanced client care via improved cross disciplinary communications, referrals and interface system.
- Enhanced client care via sharing of best practice knowledge between prescriber colleagues.
- Expansion of the GP ORT prescriber workforce.
- Increased efficiency in allocation of resources i.e. specialist ORT services will have additional capacity to deal with complex clients.
- Increased knowledge and skills base for community GPs as scope of clinical work expands.

How does it operate in the region?
The opioid management team has developed a framework, providing a structure for stable clients of a specialist ORT prescribing GP to nominate their ORT care to their regular GP. The framework has been made available to specialist ORT prescribing GPs to undertake transitional shared care agreements with GPs throughout the region. Transitional shared care must be agreed to by both GPs and include:

- The referral process and agreeing to transitional shared care.
- Priority re-referral process back to the specialist ORT prescribing GP if the patient’s ORT needs become complex.
- How the mentoring process works.
- The support available via the opioid management team to assist the patient’s regular GP to manage the patient’s ORT care.

For further opioid management information:

Program enquiries contact the team coordinator
Aneill Kamath: aneill.kamath@westvicphn.com.au; Ph 5564 5888

Specialist opioid management team support and advice contacts
Geelong Office: 5222 0800
Pene Wood: pene.wood@westvicphn.com.au
Craig Harvey: craig.harvey@westvicphn.com.au
Dr Mark Davies
mark.davies@westvicphn.com.au

Warrnambool Office: 5564 5888
Amy Collins: amy.collins@westvicphn.com.au
Rob Kenna: rob.kenna@westvicphn.com.au

Not sure who to contact? All opioid management team members will be able to assist or connect you to the most appropriate team member.