

# New Mexico Treatment Services

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

# What is Methadone?

- Methadone is a long-acting, synthetic drug that was first used in the maintenance treatment of drug addiction in the United States in the 1960s. It is an opioid “agonist,” which means that it acts in a way that is similar to morphine and other narcotic medications. When used in proper doses in maintenance treatment, methadone does not create euphoria, sedation, or an analgesic effect. Doses must be individually determined. The proper maintenance dose is the one at which the cravings stop, without creating the effects of euphoria or sedation.

- \*Drug Policy Alliance – About Methadone

# How is methadone different from heroin and other opioids (for example, morphine or dilaudid)?

- Methadone lasts longer. The body metabolizes methadone differently than it does heroin or morphine. When a person takes methadone regularly, it builds up and is stored in the body, so it lasts even longer when used for maintenance. Most people find that once they're stabilized on a dose of methadone that's right for them, a single oral dose will "hold" them for at least a full 24-hour day. For some, the effect lasts longer; for others it lasts a shorter time.
- \*Drug Policy Alliance—About Methadone

# Methadone maintenance is intended to do three things for patients:

- 1. Keep the patient from going into withdrawal.
  - 2. Keep the patient comfortable and free from craving street opioids.
  - 3. “Block” the effects of street opioids.
- 
- \*Drug Policy Alliance – About Methadone

# How is a Patient Dosed?

Dosing in New Mexico

# Daily Dosing

A patient that attends the clinic daily to dose is administered a single dose strength prescribed by the clinic's Medical Director by a Nurse (LPN or RN) and is handed a small dosing cup at the dosing window.

*The Nurse will dispense liquid Methadone from the bulk bottle into a dosing cup.*







# Creating & Dispensing Take Home Doses:

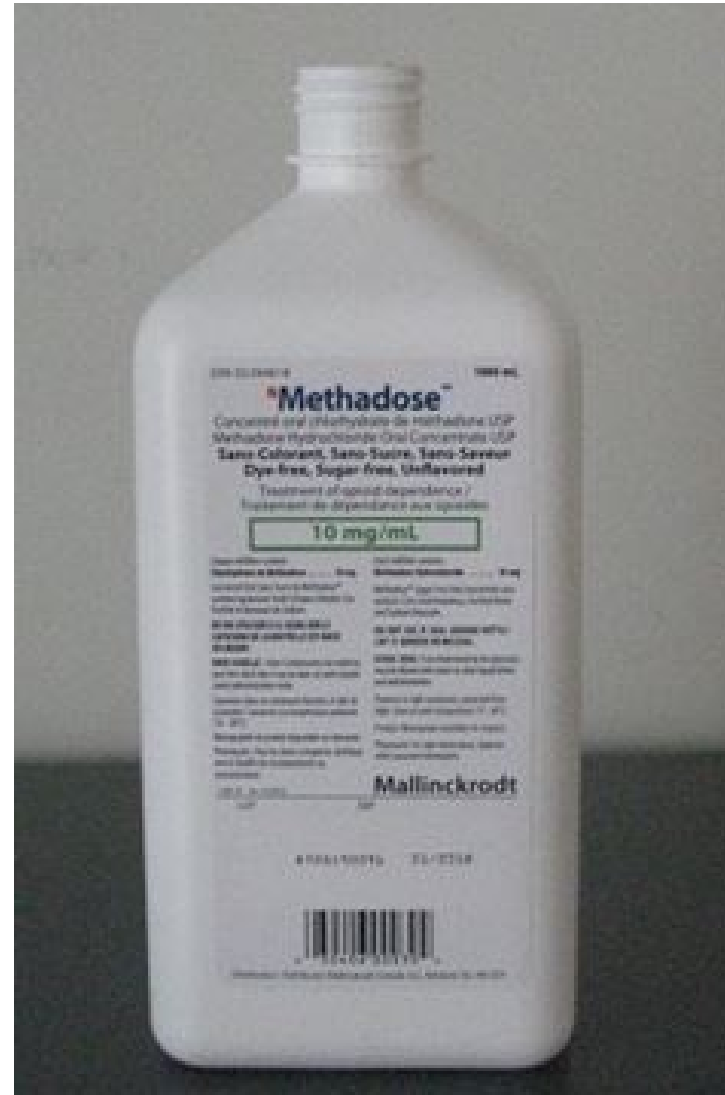


# Preparing Take Homes by a Pharmacist:

- The Pharmacist creates take home doses prescribed by the clinics Medical Director. He/she takes the liquid Methadone from the bulk form and puts this into a small bottle with a sealed lid.



# Liquid Methadone Bottle in Bulk Form



When the Patient picks up their take homes, they are administered a "Window dose" in a cup by the Nurse and handed the take home bottles prepared by the Pharmacist to be stored in a lock box.



## Both the Nurse & Pharmacist dispense from a Methadone Bulk Bottle

The Difference: a Nurse puts the medication in a cup & the Pharmacist puts the medication in a bottle with a lid and label.

