

Joint protocol for working with opioid drug users in primary care and the drug treatment provider in Islington

Triage Assessment

- Usually at Islington Integrated Drug and Alcohol Service (Better Lives) but where appropriate can be arranged at the GP practice.
- NDTMS consent obtained and completed by drug treatment recovery worker.

Commencement of opioid substitute medication

- Usually at the drug treatment service but where appropriate can be arranged at the GP practice.
- Recovery Care Plan and Treatment Outcome Profile (TOP) to be completed with patient by drug treatment recovery worker
- Letter to GP by assessing doctor if commenced at drug treatment service
- Dose titration at drug treatment service or if appropriate at GP practice
- Drug Urine Screening
- Weekly appointments (more frequent if clinically indicated) during treatment induction
- When dose titrated (usually 2 weeks) drug treatment recovery worker to discuss and agree patient transfer to GP (unless already being seen in primary care).

Start of Treatment in primary care

- Transfer to primary care agreed when clinically safe at any time after commencement on opioid substitute medication.
- GP to be responsible for continuing OST prescribing. Payment will be based on GP rate.

Treatment In Recovery

- Recovery worker to agree treatment recovery care plan with patient and GP.
- Recovery worker and GP to agree frequency of appointments – usually alternate face-to-face consultations.
- GP responsible for assessing risk and reducing transmission (through screening and vaccination) of Blood Borne Viruses, where clinically indicated.
- GP responsible for annual drug screen testing. Recovery workers to do random urine drug screens a minimum of once every 3 months.
- Full annual healthcare review of all opioid drug using patient's treatment (using template provided) preferably by GP, if not possible the healthcare review can be completed by a nurse from the practice who has had involvement with the patient but payment will reflect who has completed the review
- Recovery worker to review the recovery care plan (including health and wellbeing goals) with patient and GP/practice staff every 6 months.

Mental Health Review

- GP to refer to Better Lives Islington for mental health / psychiatric assessment when necessary and agreement to transfer back to specialist services when appropriate.

Practice Roles and Responsibilities

Activity	Responsibility	Estimated time	Estimated cost
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Prescribing – issue prescriptions (fortnightly)	GP (Can also be carried out by Practice Nurse Prescriber)	3 hours	£300
6 monthly care plan reviews (2 reviews per year)	GP Practice Nurse	2 x 30 mins	£100 £74
Annual health review	GP Practice Nurse	30 mins 30 mins	£50 £37
		Total (if all GP)	£450
		Total (if mix)	£411 (min)

Total Income from LCS £465 (if all outcomes achieved).

Please note prescribing payment will be made for GP cost regardless of who does this in the practice.