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Drugs of Dependence: Promenade Medical Centre

Drugs of dependence are prescription medicines that have a higher potential for misuse, abuse, dependence and addiction. Many patients may require treatment with drugs of dependence for specified period to help manage their medically diagnosed conditions. Because of the recognised serious risk of harm associated with the drugs of dependence, there are multiple levels of laws, regulations and legislative frameworks controlling the prescription of drugs of dependence.

Due to the increasing reports of the harm caused by prescription drugs of dependence, we established a policy to provide the best possible health outcomes, while reducing the risks associated with the use of the drugs of dependence.

The key points of our policy are highlighted below:

- We do **not** store, dispense or administer any drugs of dependence within the Promenade Medical Centre.
- Our doctors will **not** prescribe any drugs of dependence during the first consultation.
- Before prescribing any drugs of dependence, your doctor is required to obtain your prescription history reports from the following Federal and State agencies:
 - The Prescription Shopping Information Service (PSIS)
 - The Prescription Shopping Alert Service (PSAS)
 - The Medicines and Poisons Regulation Branch of Western Australia.
- Your doctor is required to notify the Department of Health of Western Australia if they become aware or suspect that you are addicted to prescription drugs. In such a case, the Department may decide to add your name to the Register of Notified Drug Addicts.
- It may take time to obtain and verify accurate medical information about your condition. Until such accurate information is fully available, your doctor may choose not to prescribe any medication. It is our policy that doctors do not prescribe drugs of dependence until they have a full clinical information e.g. consultant reports, urine drug tests, PSIS reports etc.

- Even after obtaining your clinical information and prescription history, your doctor may decide not to continue prescribing an opioid medication previously prescribed for you. It may be determined that such a medication is not suitable. It is our policy that doctors do not prescribe drugs of dependence if they feel that previous prescriptions were clinically inappropriate or not in line with regulatory framework surrounding the prescription of drugs of dependence.
- If the decision to prescribe drugs of dependence is taken after a shared discussion of goals, plans, risks and benefits, you may be required to provide your binding written consent.
- Patients are reminded that we have a zero tolerance on issues relating to staff abuse. Any verbal or physical threats to staff will result in transfer of your care.