

SECTION: PROGRAMS

POLICY TITLE: METHADONE USE WHILE RESIDING AT LILLI HOUSE

This policy is issued under the authority of the Comox Valley Transition Society Board of Directors and is administered by the Executive Director and Transition House Coordinator (THC).

Policy

The Comox Valley Transition Society recognizes the need for some women to participate in a methadone program. Women who are on the methadone program are eligible for the same services as any other women who fall within the mandate of CVTS.

Procedure

Dependant on instructions from a doctor, some women participating in the methadone program may need to attend a pharmacy on a daily basis to obtain their methadone. Other women may be authorized to have “carries”. * If safety is an issue for a woman when picking up methadone at a pharmacy (i.e. her partner attends the same pharmacy) or she is a client in the Addictions Recovery Program, arrangements may be made for methadone to be delivered to Lilli House.

Any methadone on the premises will be stored in the staff fridge which will be kept locked.

*Women who are authorized to have “carries” are able to have several doses of methadone in their possession which removes the need to attend a pharmacy daily.

During phone intake: if a woman wishing to access Lilli House services indicates that she is in the methadone program and she wishes to have “carries”, or if she already has “carries” she will be given the following information:

- On intake she will be required to sign a release of information for her methadone doctor and the pharmacy where she obtains methadone.
- Lilli House staff will contact the methadone doctor and pharmacy to verify prescribed methadone and instructions/restrictions and if required change arrangements for woman’s methadone to be kept at Lilli House.
- Instructions for the safe management of her methadone program participation while at Lilli House will be in writing in her file (information form signed by methadone doctor/pharmacist) and will not be changed without further written confirmation from the methadone doctor and/or pharmacy.

- On discharge or when taking an overnight, Lilli House staff will follow instructions provided by the methadone doctor and pharmacy as to whether or not she may take methadone with her.

On intake to Lilli House: the above information will be discussed with a woman, and the protocols listed below will be followed.

- ROI will be signed for methadone doctor and pharmacy
- Methadone information form and ROI will be faxed to the methadone doctor and/or pharmacist.
- If woman does not currently have “carries” she will have to continue to attend the pharmacy for daily dosage of methadone until arrangements can be made to have ‘carries’ delivered to Lilli House, Whether a woman can have ‘carries’ while staying at Lilli House will be at the sole discretion of the doctor.

On discharge or when taking an over night away from Lilli House:

- Staff will refer to the Methadone Information form signed by the methadone doctor and/or pharmacist.
- Staff will follow instructions on the methadone information form as to whether the woman discharging will be given any remaining methadone to take with her.
- If a woman has permission to take remaining methadone with her the quantity will be noted on discharge form and signed by staff and resident.
- If a woman does not have permission to take any methadone with her it will be kept in the locked staff fridge and the THC will be notified. The staff will notify the doctor and pharmacy that a woman has left Lilli House without methadone and provide the doctor with the date and time of last dosage as well as the amount of methadone left at Lilli House. The THC will arrange for the methadone to be returned to the pharmacy.

Women in Social Detox – the safe management of methadone usage will be carried out in collaboration with the Substance Abuse Intervention Nurse (SAIN). If a woman in the Social Detox program is to have “carries” arrangements will be made by the SAIN ahead of a woman being admitted into the program. Upon admissions, Lilli House staff will confirm arrangements for the methadone with the doctor and pharmacy as per above process. If a woman in the Social Detox program is not authorized for “carries” arrangements for daily delivery/pick-up will be made by the SAIN in conjunction with Lilli House staff.

Women in Supportive Recovery – the safe management of methadone usage will be carried out in collaboration with the Addictions Counsellor at Comox Valley Mental Health and Addiction Services. If a woman in the Supportive Recovery program is to have “carries”, arrangements will be made by the Addictions Counsellor ahead of a woman being admitted into the program. Upon admission, Lilli House staff will confirm the arrangements for the methadone with the doctor and pharmacy as per above process.

If a woman in the Social Detox program is not authorized for “carries” arrangements for daily delivery/pick-up will be made by the SAIN in conjunction with Lilli House staff