

P A V  
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MEDICATION ASSISTED RECOVERY  
FOR OPIATES



# P A V I L I O N S

## MEDICATION ASSISTED RECOVERY: OPIATES

**Medications can be a useful tool in the journey of recovery.**

Medication works particularly well in combination with psychosocial interventions, such as mutual aid, individual and group support.

The medications that you may be offered are prescribed by addiction specialists, both doctors and specialist nurses. These medications work in the brain to relieve withdrawal symptoms from opiates, such as heroin.



## WHAT IS OPIATE ASSISTED RECOVERY?

Here at Pavilions we provide medication-assisted treatments in the community to individuals who are physically dependent on opiates.

Examples of opiates:

- Heroin
- Codeine
- Methadone
- Dihydrocodeine
- Buprenorphine

You may need to come to our titration clinic where a nurse will help with your prescribing needs.

## WHAT ARE THE MAIN MEDICATIONS?



### Methadone (Physeptone):

A long-acting opioid medication used to help manage withdrawal from opiate dependence, and to help you reduce or stop your usual opiates (e.g. heroin or dihydrocodeine).



### Buprenorphine (Subutex):

An alternative to methadone, and may be a safer option for some patients. Buprenorphine binds strongly to opiate receptors in the brain and can prevent the intoxicating effects of other opiates, helping you to stop using them. It is also safer in regards to overdose than methadone.



### Symptomatic medication for withdrawal:

A number of prescribed and over-the counter medications can help with opiate withdrawal including loperamide for diarrhoea, metoclopramide for nausea, and paracetamol or ibuprofen for muscle aches.

### Naltrexone:

Another opiate "blocker" that reverses opiate overdose and helps save lives.

### Naloxone:

Helps with relapse prevention by "blocking" the effects of opiates (e.g. heroin).

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For other treatment options or to find out what services are available at pavilions please either look at our leaflet resources in reception, ask a member of staff or speak to your CC

