

INDUCTION DAY ONE

- Plan induction for a week day preferably early in the day. Reassessment required following morning visit.
- At time of first dose precipitated withdrawal risk is much lower if COWS is greater than 12. If lower, postpone until afternoon or next day.
- Start with either 2mg or 4mg depending on COWS scale (see handout)
- Re-assess 1 hour after first dose to check for "precipitated withdrawal"
- Make sure patients have SOWS to do self assessment
- Re-assess and dose again at intervals of 3-4 hours 1 or 2 more times on day one up to a maximum of 12 mg on the first day.

DAY 1	COWS Score	DOSE
900 hrs of day 1 Visit #1	14	4 mg
1200 hrs of day 1 Visit #2	(a) <5 (b) 6-12 (c) >12	(a) 0 (b) 2mg (b) 4 mg
1600 hr of day 1 Visit #3	(a) <5 (b) 6-12 (c) >12	(a) 0 (b) 2 mg (c) 4 mg Max Dose Day 1 = 12 mg

INDUCTION DAY TWO

- Start off day two with the total dose for Day One
- Re-assess the pt 3-4 hours after the first dose for day two and consider a second dose depending upon the continued presence of withdrawal symptoms.
- A maximum dose of 16 mg is currently recommended on day 2
- You may need to adjust the dose more than once on Day Two

DAY 2	COWS	DOSE
9:00 hrs of day 2 1 st dose	Takes first dose at Pharmacy prior to coming to the clinic	Start with total dose of the previous day – max 12mg
1200 hrs Visit # 1	(a) <5 (b) 6-12 (c) >12	(a) 0 (b) 2 mg (c) 4 mg
1600 hr of day 2 Visit # 2	(a) <5 (b) 6-12 (c) >12	(a) 0 (b) 2 mg (c) 4 mg Max Dose Day 2 = 16 mg

Induction Day Three and beyond

- As with Day Two, start off Day Three with the total dose given on Day Two
- Re-assess the patient 3-4 hours following the morning dose for signs of persistent withdrawal.
- Dose adjustments may be made in 2-4 mg amounts as required to prevent withdrawal and cravings – up to a maximum of 24 mg/day.

INDUCTION SUMMARY

