

Outline for Pharmacist-Client Dialogue on Take-home Doses : Buprenorphine

The first time take-home doses are dispensed, the pharmacist should discuss the appropriate use of the medication with the patient, being sensitive to the individual patient's level of literacy. This discussion should be appropriately documented.

A written Take-Home ("Carry") Agreement helps to ensure that precautionary measures and expectations are understood

The pharmacist should emphasize the following points:

- Take-home doses are for the patient's consumption only and they should be taken on the day(s) specified on the label.
- Take-home doses must be kept secure and are the responsibility of the patient.
- Take-home doses must be kept away from children.
- Ingestion by anyone other than the client should be considered a medical emergency, and emergency assistance (911) should be called immediately.
- If take-home doses are lost or stolen, police should be notified immediately to prevent possible harm to others.
- Misplaced, lost or stolen take-home doses are generally not replaced. As with any other narcotic, if any doses are replaced, a new prescription is required.
- Empty medication bottles should be returned to the pharmacy.

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