

Methadone FACTS

Methadone is an excellent medication for patients with severe pain because

- It has fewer side effects
- It causes less sleepiness
- It is long-acting

When taking Methadone

- Always advise any doctors you visit that you are taking Methadone
- Always keep all medications in a safe place where a child or someone else cannot take them

Methadone

- Must be taken exactly as ordered by your doctor
- Must be closely monitored for first seven days
- May effect patients differently and need changes

When taking Methadone

- Never start or stop taking another medication without telling nurse/doctor
- Never take extra doses of Methadone
- Never mix medications that cause you to be sleepy with Methadone unless your doctor orders them
- Never mix Methadone or other pain medications with alcohol or recreational drugs
- Never operate machinery or take part in activities that require you to be alert while taking Methadone

Share the following information with your nurse or doctor:

- All medications you are taking, including herbs, vitamins, over-the-counter medications
- If you have heart problems
- If you have experienced problems with pain medications in the past
- If you have allergies
- If anyone in the home has a history of abusing pain medications
- If you are worried about the safety of medications in your home

PLEASE CALL PATIENT SERVICES IMMEDIATELY if the person taking Methadone:

- Is confused
- Can't think or walk normally
- Is too sleepy
- Behaves unusual
- Has blurred vision
- Feels faint or dizzy
- Is not breathing normally