

## Appendix 2

## Stoke CDAS Safe Storage

Young children are naturally curious and do not understand danger or the difference between a brightly coloured tablet and a sweet, or between liquid medicines and fizzy pop. Even small children can climb to reach things that are stored for example on a high shelf or in a fridge. If anyone else, including a child takes your medication, they could be seriously harmed, overdose or die even if it is a small amount. This is why all medicines, drug taking paraphernalia, alcohol and illicit substances should be kept locked away out of the sight and reach of others, particularly children. Stoke CDAS follows the Department of Health advice against take-home doses where there are concerns over the safe storage of medications at home, 'or potential risks to children'. Service users are advised not to measure out Methadone using a baby's milk bottle or to use Methadone to pacify a child both can have significant risks and can result in overdose.

Any spillages must be cleared up immediately and child-resistant lids must be left on bottles. Any unwanted medicines must be taken to a pharmacy and drug taking paraphernalia taken to a needle exchanged for safe disposal. When disposing of empty bottles and packaging, bottles should be washed out and any identifying labels should be removed to prevent their theft and diversion. The keys to any storage box should be kept out of the sight and reach of others, particularly children at all times. Service users are warned not to be under the influence whilst taking care of children, even during the periods whilst the child is asleep.

It is important to note that the second peak in child deaths owing to Opiate Substitute Treatment (OST) overdose occurs within the teenage years linking to curiosity despite the awareness of the danger. Evidence linking to coroner reports show that more deaths occur as a result of Methadone ingestion than that of Buprenorphine. Service users are advised that they can request a Methadone conversion to Buprenorphine in order to reduce the risk in children.

It is **your responsibility** to ensure that any of your medicines, drug taking paraphernalia, alcohol and illicit substances are stored and disposed of safely. Do not take your medication in front of other people, especially children.

### Emergency action if you think someone else has taken your medication:

- Phone 999 for an ambulance to get urgent medical attention.
- Take the container of the medication (and any remaining contents) with you, so the doctor knows what they have taken.
- Do not try and make the person sick – this may make things worse.
- If the person is unconscious, lie them on their side to make their breathing easier and to help stop them inhaling vomit if they are sick.

If you buy street medication or substances methadone you cannot be sure of the strength, purity or even what it is and they may not be in bottles with child-resistant lids so if someone else takes them, then you may not be able to tell the doctor what they have taken.

Lockable boxes for safe storage of medication are available from CDAS and will be offered to you, particularly if you have children living or regularly visiting your accommodation, or if you share your accommodation with another person. This is because of the potentially fatal consequences to both children and adults who do not have tolerance to them.

I, the client, confirm that I have been made aware of the risks and dangers of my medication being taken by others, and I have been offered a secure storage box during the **Comprehensive Assessment** for my medication, which I have:

- Accepted       Declined

*If I have declined the offer to take a storage box, this is because:* .....

Service User Name		Signature		CDAS Staff name		Signature		Date		Client Copy provided:- Yes/No
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I, the client, confirm that I have been made aware of the risks and dangers of my medication being taken by others, and I have been offered a secure storage box during the **First Prescribing Review** for my medication, which I have:

- Accepted       Declined

*If I have declined the offer to take a storage box, this is because:* .....

Service User Name		Signature		CDAS Staff name		Signature		Date		Client Copy provided:- Yes/No
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