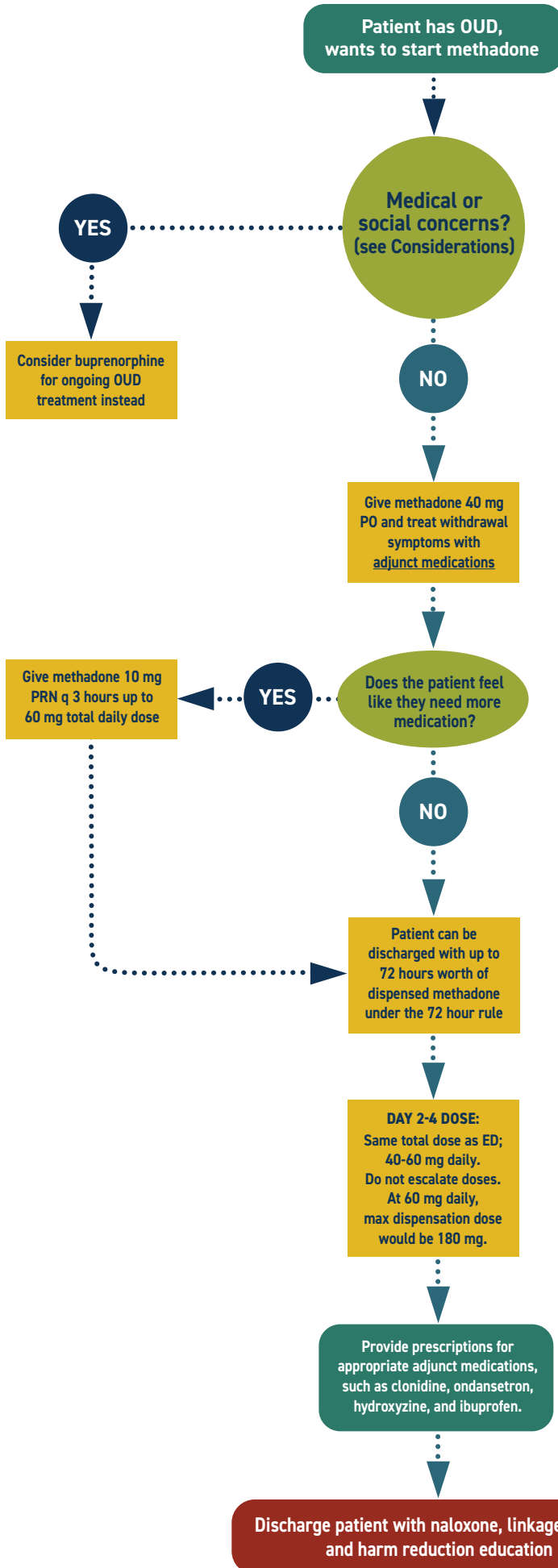


Methadone Initiation



Methadone dispensation

Patient may be discharged with up to 72 hours worth of methadone while awaiting connection to an OTP per the 72 hour rule per 21 CFR 1306.07(b). Connecting the patient to an OTP is required if dispensing medication.

Considerations

- Age over 65
- Concurrent sedative use
- COPD with oxygen requirement
- Underlying heart disease (potential for QT prolongation)

It is vital to determine whether the patient can successfully connect to an OTP. Consider the daily dosing requirement, distance from and transportation to the OTP, and if the OTP is taking new patients. It is best to schedule the OTP appointment before discharge, and the patient must be linked to the OTP within 72 hours. Fully inform patient of OTP process and expectations.

Communicate with the OTP. At a minimum, the OTP needs documentation of what date/time the patient was given their dose and what their dosing regimen is. Call, if possible, and fax and provide the info to the patient to bring to the OTP.

Consider screening for HIV, HCV, STIs, and mental health comorbidities.

Methadone can have significant drug-drug interactions, which should be reviewed prior to initiation.

Program partners

Washington State Health Care Authority
 ADAI ADDICTIONS, DRUG & ALCOHOL INSTITUTE
 UW Medicine DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MEDICINE
 UNIVERSITY of WASHINGTON PSYCHIATRY & BEHAVIORAL SCIENCES
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