

Appendix 2: Emergency Management of Opiate & Benzodiazepine Withdrawal Symptoms

Refer to the Acute Addiction Liaison Team (see [Appendix 1](#) of GGC guideline) as soon as possible after admission.

For patients:

- Awaiting further assessment
- Awaiting confirmation of opiate substitution treatment (OST) prescription
- Who use prescribed / non-prescribed opiates
- Awaiting confirmation of benzodiazepine prescription
- Who use prescribed / non-prescribed benzodiazepines
- Short-term admissions for whom no through-care is possible.

Opiate Withdrawal

Dihydrocodeine oral to be prescribed in doses of up to 60mg four times daily (off-label use).

This dose can be reduced or maintained during short admissions depending on the clinical condition of the patient.

Do not supply on discharge.

Benzodiazepine Withdrawal

Diazepam / lorazepam can be prescribed in equal doses up to:

Diazepam oral 10mg - 20mg four times daily

Lorazepam oral 1mg - 2mg three times daily (caution in older patients)

This dose can be reduced or maintained during short admissions depending on the clinical condition of the patient.

Do not supply on discharge.