Methadone Withdrawal Protocol

If three consecutive abstinence scores are > 8

Start methadone 0.15 mg/kg/DOSE PO Q6h

If abstinence scores remain > 8 after initial dosing, give 0.05mg/kg/DOSE q3h. Add extra doses to the daily dose the next day.

Decrease dose by half po Q6h

After 24 hrs or when three consecutive abstinence scores are < 8 (WEAN QUICKLY)

Same dose po Q8h

After 24 hrs or when three consecutive abstinence scores are < 8

Same dose po Q12h

After 48 hrs or when three consecutive abstinence scores are < 8 (WEAN SLOWLY)

Decrease dose by half po Q12h

After 48 hrs or when three consecutive abstinence scores are < 8

Same dose po Qday

Discontinue methadone when abstinence scores consistently < 8 or by daily assessment of needs

Protocol adapted from the Univ.of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, Children’s Hospital of New Mexico and Carrie Tingley Hospital

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