

# Fact Sheet: Nurse Practitioners

## The Medication Support and Recovery Service

The Medication Support and Recovery Service (MSRS) is a specialist Alcohol or other Drug service providing assessment and treatment for people misusing over-the-counter and prescription medications. Nurse practitioners are registered nurses who provide high levels of clinically focused nursing care in a variety of contexts. The MSRS nurse practitioner can support the patient through withdrawal, prescribe pharmacotherapy and facilitate access to counselling services.

A nurse practitioner can work collaboratively with a patient and their GP, enhancing care and providing additional safety measures for a patient who is misusing medication. This can give the GP access to chronic care items on the MBS as the nurse practitioner will liaise with pharmacists, therapists and other health professionals.

### SERVICES

The MSRS Nurse Practitioner can provide the following free services:

- Medication withdrawal support and reduction plans
- Collaboration with GPs, providing support to GPs during the patient's medication reduction plan
- Assessment of co-occurring mental health issues and referrals to therapeutic interventions
- Pharmacotherapy including Suboxone® or methadone
- Dual consultations with a nurse and counsellor
- Referral to Allied Health services
- Education on harm reduction methods, such as naloxone training
- Referrals to pain clinics, pharmacotherapy, inpatient withdrawal units and medication reviews
- Secondary consultations with Addiction Medicine or Pain Specialists
- Comprehensive health assessment, including urine drug screens and general pathology

It's possible to be dependent without problematic use.

It's possible to have problematic use without being dependent.

### ELIGIBILITY AND REFERRALS

To be eligible for our services, the patient must be misusing a pharmaceutical, but we accept poly-drug use referrals. Referrals can be made online at [msrs.org.au](http://msrs.org.au) or over the phone via our MSRS intake worker, on 1800 931 101.

We accept referrals from GPs, as well as from patients and families, AOD clinicians and other health professionals.

### MORE INFORMATION

You can find more information about our service on our website at [msrs.org.au](http://msrs.org.au) or you can call our intake worker on 1800 931 101.

The MSRS is commissioned by the Eastern Melbourne PHN and supported by funding from the Australian Government under the PHN Program.

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