



## Medication Policies

Please review the following medication policies that all residents are expected to follow while in residential treatment programming in Stabilization and Anchorage:

*Please note that for our purposes, the term “medication” refers to any prescription medications, over-the-counter medications, vitamins, supplements (including whey, protein, and other dietary supplements), medicated sprays, and holistic remedies.*

- **Stabilization welcomes residents on all types of medications, including opiate replacement therapies.** Residents need to arrive with all of their medications in **proper packing**— medication that is unpackaged or unidentifiable **will not be accepted** and residents will not be permitted to take them.
- Upon intake, **all medication is given to our Front Desk staff.** Medication is not permitted in resident bedrooms and at no time can residents have medication on their person.
- If you are using an opiate replacement therapy, please be aware that you are **not permitted to have methadone carries on site.** Residents on methadone will be expected to get their dose each morning from a pharmacy. Suboxone carries are permitted in program, and are stored at Front Desk as with all other medications.
- Should residents obtain new prescriptions or purchase over-the-counter medications, they are expected to discuss this with their counsellor prior to taking any new medication. Staff may need to review medications in order to determine their suitability for use in a treatment program.
- At no time are residents permitted to share their medication or obtain medication from others.

### For residents going to Anchorage...

- Anchorage **does not** accept clients on benzodiazepine or narcotic medications\*, as they are not suitable for use in an abstinent-based program. **Residents may arrive to Stabilization on these medications,** and can work with a doctor to taper off their doses and explore alternative medications prior to entering Anchorage.
- **Residents will not be permitted to start an opiate replacement therapy once they have entered Anchorage.** They may consult with a doctor and pursue opiate replacement options while in Stabilization. Residents are expected to have stabilized on their opiate replacement dosage prior to their entry to Anchorage.



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- Residents who plan to attend Anchorage will be asked to transfer their prescriptions to Respect Rx pharmacy, which can be done when they first enter Stabilization. Respect Rx pharmacy delivers medications to our programs on site on a weekly basis.

*\*In **exceptional** circumstances, these medications **may** be permitted if it is determined that stopping these medications would cause undue harm to a resident and/or there is no suitable alternative for an individual. Staff reserve the right to request formal documentation from the prescribing doctor to substantiate this.*

**Please be aware that failure to abide by the above medication policies can result in a resident being discharged from program.**