



# CAPEL MEDICAL CLINIC

## Policy and procedures for providing prescription drugs of dependence

In response to wide reporting of increased harm caused by prescription drugs of dependence, Capel Medical Clinic has adopted the following policy and procedures covering the storage and provision of these drugs. Capel Medical Clinic's policy and processes reflect our commitment to reducing the risks of prescribing drugs of dependence and supporting the best possible health outcomes for our patients.

**NOTE:** We do **not** store, dispense or administer any drugs of dependence at Capel Medical Clinic.

### What are drugs of dependence?

Drugs of dependence are prescription medicines with higher potential for misuse, abuse, dependence and addiction. Patients may require treatment with drugs of dependence to help manage medically diagnosed conditions for a specified period of time.

Because of the recognised serious risk of harm associated with drugs of dependence, there are multiple laws and regulations controlling their use.

### Before we prescribe drugs of dependence

Our doctors will not prescribe any drugs of dependence during the first consultation.

- Before prescribing any drugs of dependence, your doctor is **required** to obtain your prescription history reports from the following Federal and State agencies:
- The Prescription Shopping Information Service (PSIS)
- The Prescription Shopping Alert Service (PSAS)
- The Medicines and Poisons Regulation Branch of Western Australia
- Our doctors **do not** prescribe drugs of dependence until they have a full clinical profile e.g. consultant reports, urine drug tests, PSIS reports etc.

**NOTE:** It may take time to verify accurate medical information about your condition. Until this information is fully available, your doctor may choose not to prescribe any medication.

### Notifying the Department of Health of Western Australia

Your doctor is **required** to notify the Department of Health of Western Australia if they become aware or suspect that you are addicted to drugs. In such a case, the Department may decide to add your name to the Register of Notified Drug Addicts.

### Prescribing policy

Even after obtaining your clinical information and prescription history, your doctor may decide **not to continue prescribing** an opioid medication previously prescribed for you.

- Our doctors do not prescribe drugs of dependence if they feel that previous prescriptions were clinically inappropriate or not in line with regulatory framework surrounding the prescription of drugs of dependence.
- If the decision to prescribe drugs of dependence is taken after a shared discussion of goals, plans, risks and benefits, you may be required to provide your binding written consent.

**NOTE:** Patients are reminded that we have a zero tolerance on issues relating to staff abuse.

Anyone who verbally or physically threatens our staff will not be welcome in our practice. This behaviour will result in transfer of your care.