

Reference: FOI.ICB-2324/089

Subject: Medicines Withdrawal Services

*I can confirm that the ICB **does hold some of the information requested**; please see responses below:*

QUESTION	RESPONSE
<p>Is your Integrated Care Board aware of the recently published NHS England publication titled "Optimising personalised care for adults prescribed medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms: Framework for action for integrated care boards (ICBs) and primary care"? NHS England » Optimising personalised care for adults prescribed medicines associated with dependence or withdrawal symptoms: Framework for action for integrated care boards (ICBs) and primary care</p> <p>If so, what action will your Board take to:</p> <p>a) Provide appropriate withdrawal services (not inappropriate substance misuse services) for patients who have become dependent, through no fault of their own, to prescribed drugs identified in the recent PHE review, such as benzodiazepines, z drugs, opioid containing drugs, antidepressants and pregabalin and gabapentin?</p> <p>b) Develop local policies for the above?</p> <p>c) Implement in prescribing practice when prescribing the drugs mentioned above?</p>	<p>The ICB is currently reviewing the framework and the services currently available in BNSSG include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Breaking free is an online resource for patients with alcohol and drug problems, including prescribed medications, which is available for patients registered with a GP in Bristol and South Gloucestershire. • Bristol ROADS (Recovery Orientated Alcohol & Drugs Service) provides free and confidential advice, support and treatment for adults with problematic alcohol and drug use. ROADS do not delineate in their support offer between someone who has been prescribed a dependency forming medication and someone who has obtained a dependency forming medication illegally. • We Are With You – provide drug and alcohol services for North Somerset, including a programme of treatment for prescription only medication • Developing Health & Independence (https://www.dhi-online.org.uk/get-help/pain-management-and-wellbeing-project) – an integrated Drug and Alcohol service providing support to people in South Gloucestershire.

	<p>Also see information on the local BNSSG Remedy Webpage: https://remedy.bnssg.icb.nhs.uk/adults/drug-and-alcohol-misuse/non-opiate-drug-dependence/</p> <p>The ICB continues to review service provision on an ongoing basis and will try to address gaps as part of the review of recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> b) Individual providers have their own internal prescribing policies. The ICB has overarching guidance in relation to prescribing benzodiazepines and medications in chronic pain, which highlight the risks associated with dependence forming medicines and the importance of monitoring. The need for local guidance and their updates is ongoing. c) Local webinars have taken place to support clinicians in relation to shared decision making, pain management and deprescribing dependence forming medicines. Information relating to services available via our local BNSSG Remedy website. Awareness of potential harms of these medications is shared via learnings from audits, working with local secondary care colleagues and by reviewing benchmarking data.
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The information provided in this response is accurate as of 16 June 2023 and has been approved for release by Dr Joanne Medhurst, Chief Medical Officer for NHS Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire ICB.