

25 July 2025

## **Waiting times for Methadone Maintenance and Substitute Therapy**

**The average waiting time for patients to receive methadone maintenance**

We do not hold waiting time data according to specific drugs. The average waiting time data for Opioid Substitute Therapy is 21 days.

**How long the current waiting list is for new patients entering the service from Community Addiction Team or other front line service referral (excluding patients who are pushed up the queue ie those leaving prison)**

There are 10 people waiting to be seen by the Substitute Prescribing Team, however all of these 10 individuals have been issued with a first appointment date so due to be seen within the next few weeks subject to their attendance at offered appointment.

**What the current longest wait for opioid substitute therapy is**

39 days

**What the length of wait for the last patient to access methadone maintenance was**

We are unable to provide retrospective waiting times for individual patients as the waiting list is a live document

**What the number of people currently on the list awaiting substitute prescribing therapy is**

10

***Service providers raised the issue around waiting times and how it was causing some real problems. Would there be any other reason that service providers are experiencing delays in moving people onto OST? (Aside from length of Waiting List Times)***

It is difficult to provide a fulsome explanation in the absence of specific case examples. Some potential causes for delay may be due to service user's engagement/appointment eg: Did Not Attend (DNA), or service user being remanded to prison or moving to another Trust geographical area.