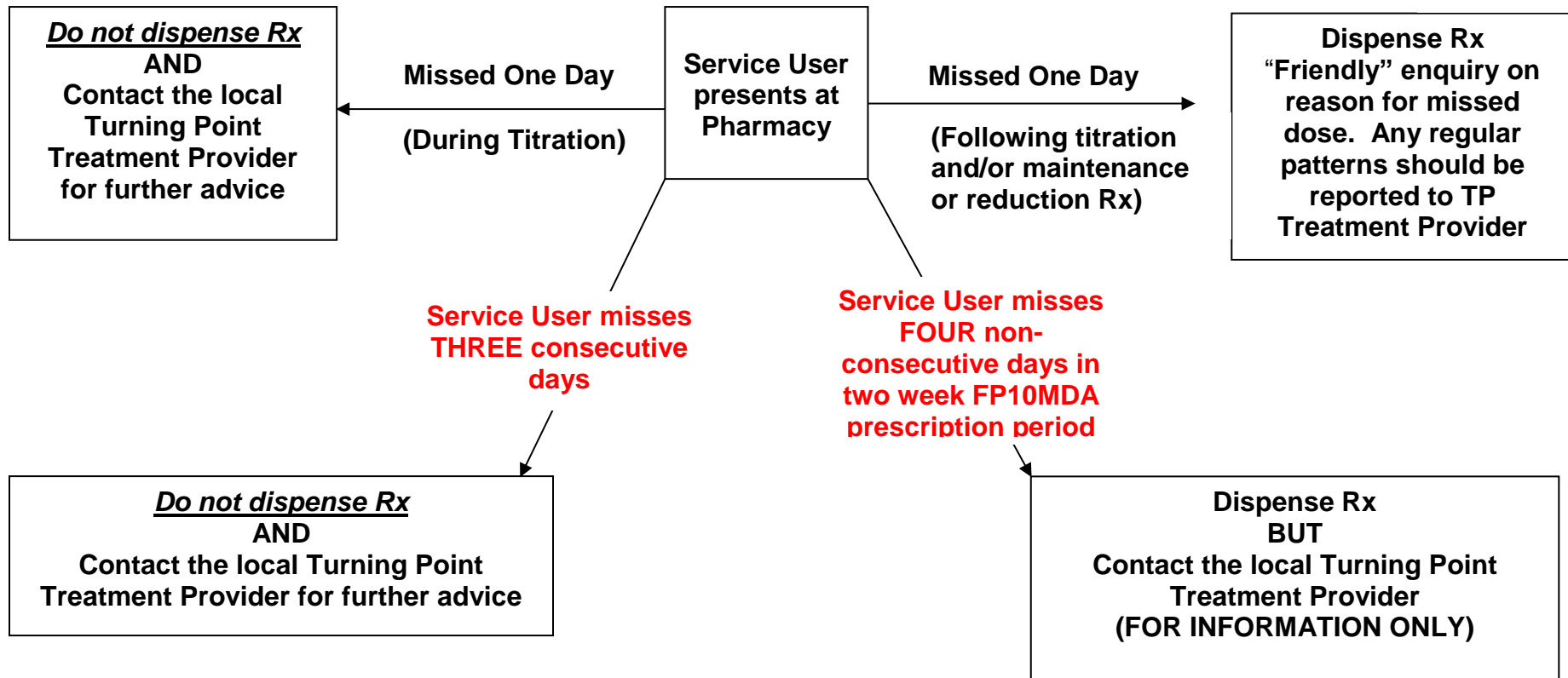


Flowchart to illustrate action to be taken by pharmacies following non-collection of instalment doses of OST



Please add your contacts for your local Turning Point service (and other relevant contacts) below:

- Wakefield 0300 123 1912 Option 3, Option 1
- Castleford 0300 123 1912 Option 3, Option 2
- Shared Care 0300 123 1912 Option 3, Option 3

Flowchart to illustrate action to be taken by pharmacies following non-collection of instalment doses of OST

Missed Doses

- Should a service user fail to attend for their Opioid Substitution Treatment¹ (OST) then the pharmacist must indicate on the prescription “not dispensed” next to the relevant date and on the relevant data collection forms on the Pharmacy Remuneration IT platform.
- If the service user misses a pick-up they should return the next day as usual for their next dose.
- If a dose is missed for **THREE consecutive days** then the treatment should be suspended and the Turning Point (TP) Treatment Service contacted. The prescription should not be re-initiated until a specific instruction to endorse this has been given by a prescriber from the Turning Point Treatment Service. If an instruction to continue the prescription is given the current prescription **can be used**². A note of this decision should be made on the service users PMR. If a service user fails to collect four or more pick-ups in a 14-day FP10MDA prescription then the TP treatment service should also be contacted. Please note this requirement is also outlined in the Medicines, Ethics and Practice guidelines³ and should be adhered to.
- The risk of death during methadone induction has been calculated at nearly seven-fold greater than the patient’s risk of death prior to entering methadone maintenance treatment and deaths usually occur during the first three to ten days of treatment⁴. Therefore, extra caution should be exercised during the first two weeks of treatment and ANY OST doses missed (including buprenorphine) should be reported to the TP Treatment Service.
- If a service user misses a dose during the titration phase of treatment i.e. increase in dose during the induction onto an OST prescription, the TP Treatment Service **must** be contacted before the next dose is given. Titration phases should not fall upon a weekend due to observation arrangements with TP treatment services.
- All emerging patterns of regular failures to attend the pharmacy should be brought to the attention of the TP Treatment Service for further investigation.

¹ Methadone (Physeptone®), buprenorphine (Subutex®) or buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone®)

² Verbal confirmation from RPS and Home Office by Lead Pharmacist (Turning Point)

³ RPS (2016) Medicines, Ethics and Practice. Edition 40. July 2016, p. 114

⁴ Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP). Guide to the Management of Substance Misuse in Primary Care (2005), pages 118-119.