

New methadone products: Information for people on methadone

“I went to my pharmacy today and my methadone drink was green! What’s going on?”

People in Ontario who take methadone have mostly been getting Methadose. As of August 31, 2022, there are two new methadone products available in Ontario. Pharmacies may start using these new kinds of methadone.

Why am I only hearing about this now?

The government made the change at the end of July. Most pharmacists, doctors, and nurse practitioners only found out about it recently.

What is different?

All methadone will still be mixed into a fruit drink. The label on your methadone bottle may change and your methadone may have a different colour or taste.

- Like Methadose, **Odan** methadone is colourless, unflavoured, and unsweetened.
- **Jamp** methadone is blue, unflavoured, and sweetened. It looks green if it’s mixed with Tang.

How will this affect me?

After September 29, if your methadone is paid for by OW, ODSP, OHIP+ or another public plan, Ontario will only cover the cost of the least expensive methadone available. The prices of the three products are very similar, but the two new products are a little bit cheaper right now. This means that if you keep getting Methadose, you may have to pay the difference in price.

Most pharmacies will have only one kind of methadone available. Your pharmacy might still give you Methadose, or it might change to one of the new methadone products. It will depend on how your pharmacy buys its methadone from suppliers. Talk to your pharmacist to find out what’s available.

The fact that the new products are cheaper doesn’t make them worse! Methadose and the two new products are **bioequivalent**. This means that they should work the same way in your body.

What if my dose of methadone feels different?

Most of the time, people don’t notice any change when they take bioequivalent drugs, but sometimes people do notice changes. If anything about your dose feels different, **tell your pharmacist and your doctor or nurse practitioner**. They will work with you to try to figure out what’s going on and what to do. If you still notice a change after a few days, they might change your dose, or they might help you find a pharmacy that has another brand of methadone available.