

Supplement 4: Prescribing for alcohol dependence

**Alcohol withdrawal**

Alcohol dependence and withdrawal may be treated in inpatient settings. Alcohol dependence may occur in combination with dependence on other classes of drugs. Where there is a history of alcohol and benzodiazepine use, a benzodiazepine withdrawal schedule as outlined above may be used. The Severity of Alcohol Dependence Questionnaire (SADQ) (Stockwell *et al.*, 1979) can be helpful in measuring the severity of alcohol dependence

**Alcohol withdrawal regimes: Dosages of chlordiazepoxide**

| Severity of dependence | Moderate (SADQ 20-30) |               | Severe (SADQ 30-40) |            | Very severe (SADQ score 40-60) |            |
|------------------------|-----------------------|---------------|---------------------|------------|--------------------------------|------------|
|                        |                       | <del>25</del> |                     | 735        |                                | 755        |
| Day 1                  | 10mg qds              | 15 mg qds     | 20 mg qds           | 30 mg qds  | 40 mg qds                      | 50 mg qds  |
| Day 2                  | 10mg tds              | 10 mg qds     | 15 mg qds           | 25 mg qds  | 30 mg qds                      | 40 mg qds  |
| Day 3                  | 5 mg tds              | 10 mg tds     | 10 mg qds           | 20 mg qds  | 25 mg qds                      | 30 mg qds  |
| Day 4                  | 5 mg bd               | 5 mg tds      | 10 mg tds           | 15 mg qds  | 20 mg qds                      | 25 mg qds  |
| Day 5                  | 5 mg nocte            | 5 mg bd       | 5 mg tds            | 10 mg qds  | 15 mg qds                      | 20 mg qds  |
|                        |                       | 5 mg nocte    | 5 mg bd             | 10 mg tds  | 10 mg qds                      | 15 mg qds  |
|                        |                       |               | 5 mg nocte          | 5 mg tds   | 10 mg tds                      | 10 mg qds  |
|                        |                       |               |                     | 5 mg bd    | 5 mg tds                       | 10 mg tds  |
|                        |                       |               |                     | 5 mg nocte | 5 mg bd                        | 5 mg tds   |
|                        |                       |               |                     |            | 5 mg nocte                     | 5 mg bd    |
|                        |                       |               |                     |            |                                | 5 mg nocte |

Qds= four times daily  
 Tds= three times daily  
 Bd= twice daily  
 Nocte= at night