

WAKEFIELD GARDENS SURGERY'S POSITION REGARDING CODEINE - CONTAINING MEDICATIONS

If you have been using codeine containing preparations (for example Panadeine and Nurofen plus) you may be aware that these medications are no longer available without a prescription .

Codeine is an opioid and there is now clear evidence that opioids pose a risk to health if used inappropriately. This is why Therapeutic Goods Australia has altered the listing for codeine availability, bringing Australia into line with the USA , and most of the European Union Countries.

There is good scientific evidence to support an approach which emphasizes ceasing codeine containing medications and looking at alternative methods for managing pain.

At Wakefield Gardens Surgery, we have always endeavored to prescribe opioids cautiously and in line with best practice and our prescribing practice will not change as a result of the change in availability of codeine.

No prescriptions for codeine containing medications will be considered without a consultation. This will still be the case even if an appointment is not available immediately.

If you have been using codeine containing medications it is possible that you may be codeine dependent and will need to develop a withdrawal plan. This is something the doctors at our practice can help you with.

Alternatively there are drug and alcohol services available in the ACT:
PH: 62079977 24 hours a day, 7 days a week

If you are experiencing acute severe symptoms then presentation to the emergency department at one of the hospitals is appropriate.

If you are experiencing an emergency call 000

The doctors at Wakefield Gardens Surgery also reserve the right to refuse to prescribe codeine- containing preparations.