

OFFCUTS

The English National Treatment Agency has released **guidance on the prescribing of injectable opioids** for heroin addiction based on the views of an expert group and a review of the literature.¹

Key recommendations are that:

- optimised oral methadone maintenance should be the maintenance treatment for the majority of heroin users;
- injectable heroin and methadone should be considered only for the minority genuinely unresponsive to an optimised oral maintenance treatment approach;
- injectable treatments based on this guidance should be seen as a new drug treatment modality requiring the development of new integrated care pathways.

1 *Injectable heroin (and injectable methadone): potential roles in drug treatment. Full guidance report.* National Treatment Agency for Substance Misuse, 2003. Download from www.nta.nhs.uk.