



Medication Assisted Treatment



Addiction:

A chronic **brain disease** characterized by drug seeking and use that is compulsive, or difficult to control, despite harmful consequences.



What is Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)?

The use of certain medications combined with counseling and other behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders and prevent opioid overdose.

The ultimate goal of MAT is full recovery, including the ability to live a self-directed life.

Benefits of this treatment approach

- Improve patient survival
- Increase retention in treatment
- Decrease illicit opiate use and other criminal activity among people with substance use disorders
- Increase patients' ability to gain and maintain employment
- Improve birth outcomes among women who have substance use disorders and are pregnant

Addressing Misconceptions

A **common misconception** of MAT is that it substitutes one addiction for another.

FACT. When properly prescribed, addiction medications can reduce drug cravings and prevent relapse without causing a "high."

There are 3 different medications to treat Opioid Use Disorder: Methadone, Buprenorphine, & Naltrexone

MYTH: MAT can only be used for a brief time.

FACT: There is no one-size-fits-all duration. People may safely take medications used in MAT for months, years, several years, or even a lifetime.

MYTHS & FACTS

MYTH: Addiction medications are a "crutch" that prevent "true recovery."

FACT: Individuals stabilized on MAT can achieve "true recovery," according to leading addiction professionals and researchers.

Stigma

A set of negative beliefs that a group or society holds about a topic or group of people.

Stigma has the potential to negatively affect a person's self-esteem, damage relationships with loved ones, and prevent those suffering from addiction from accessing treatment.

When a person experiences stigma they are seen as less than because of their health status.



Stigma can negatively impact a number of areas, including:

- Willingness to attend treatment.
- Willingness to access to healthcare.
- Harm reduction.
- Self-esteem and mental health.

Stigma & Language

Words matter. Use of person-centered language is important for reducing stigma.

Avoid these words

Addict

Drug Problem/Drug Habit

Drug Abuse

Clean

Dirty

Former addict

Opioid replacement

Use this instead

Person with a substance use disorder

Substance use disorder

Drug misuse, harmful use

Abstinent, not actively using

Actively using

Person in recovery

Medications for addiction treatment