

OPIOID ABATEMENT STRATEGIES

PART ONE: TREATMENT

A. TREAT OPIOID USE DISORDER (OUD)

Support treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and any co-occurring Substance Use Disorder or Mental Health (SUD/MH) issues through evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Expand availability of treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including all forms of Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.
2. Support and reimburse services that include the full American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) continuum of care for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including but not limited to:
 - a. Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT);
 - b. Abstinence-based treatment;
 - c. Treatment, recovery, or other services provided by states, subdivisions, community health centers; non-for-profit providers; or for-profit providers; or
 - d. Treatment by providers that focus on OUD treatment as well as treatment by providers that offer OUD treatment along with treatment for other SUD/MH issues.
3. Expand telehealth to increase access to treatment for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including MAT, as well as counseling, psychiatric support, and other treatment and recovery support services.
4. Improve oversight of Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) to assure evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising practices such as adequate methadone dosing.
5. Support mobile intervention, treatment, and recovery services, offered by qualified professionals, for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues or persons who have experienced an opioid overdose.

6. Treatment of mental health trauma issues resulting from the traumatic experiences of the opioid user (e.g., violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, or adverse childhood experiences) and family members (e.g., surviving family members after an overdose or overdose fatality), and training of health care personnel to identify and address such mental health trauma.
7. Support detoxification (detox) services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including medical detox, referral to treatment, or connections to other services or supports.
8. Training on MAT for health care providers, students, or other supporting professionals, such as peer recovery coaches or recovery outreach specialists.
9. Support workforce development for addiction professionals who work with persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
10. Fellowships for addiction medicine specialists for direct patient care, instructors, and clinical research for treatments.
11. Scholarships and supports for certified addiction counselors and other mental and behavioral health providers involved in addressing OUD any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including but not limited to training, scholarships, fellowships, loan repayment programs, or other incentives for providers to work in rural or underserved areas.
12. Scholarships for persons to become certified addiction counselors, licensed alcohol and drug counselors, licensed clinical social workers, and licensed mental health counselors practicing in the SUD field, and scholarships for certified addiction counselors, licensed alcohol and drug counselors, licensed clinical social workers, and licensed mental health counselors practicing in the SUD field for continuing education and licensing fees.
13. Provide funding and [VT EDIT] training for clinicians to obtain a waiver under the federal Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) to prescribe MAT for OUD, and provide technical assistance and professional support to clinicians who have obtained a DATA 2000 waiver.
14. Dissemination of web-based training curricula, such as the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry's Provider Clinical Support Service-Opioids web-based training curriculum and motivational interviewing.
15. Development and dissemination of new curricula, such as the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry's Provider Clinical Support Service for Medication-Assisted Treatment.

B. SUPPORT PEOPLE IN TREATMENT AND RECOVERY

Support people in treatment for and recovery from OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues through evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Provide the full continuum of care of recovery services for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including supportive housing, residential treatment, medical detox services, peer support services and counseling, community navigators, case management, and connections to community-based services.
2. Provide counseling, peer-support, recovery case management and residential treatment with access to medications for those who need it to persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
3. Provide access to housing for people with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including supportive housing, recovery housing, housing assistance programs, or training for housing providers.
4. Provide community support services to assist in deinstitutionalizing persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues
5. Support or expand peer-recovery centers, which may include support groups, social events, computer access, or other services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
6. Provide or support transportation to treatment or recovery programs or services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
7. Provide employment training or educational services for persons in treatment for or recovery from OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
8. Identify successful recovery programs such as physician, pilot, and college recovery programs, and provide support and technical assistance to increase the number and capacity of high-quality programs to help those in recovery.
9. Engage non-profits, the faith community, and community coalitions to support people in treatment and recovery and to support family members in their efforts to manage the opioid user in the family.
10. Training and development of procedures for government staff to appropriately interact and provide social and other services to current and recovering opioid users, including reducing stigma.
11. Support stigma reduction efforts regarding treatment and support for persons with OUD, including reducing the stigma on effective treatment.

12. Create or support culturally-appropriate services and programs for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including new Americans.
13. Create and/or support recovery high schools.

C. CONNECT PEOPLE WHO NEED HELP TO THE HELP THEY NEED (CONNECTIONS TO CARE)

Provide connections to care for people who have – or at risk of developing – OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues through evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Ensure that health care providers are screening for OUD and other risk factors and know how to appropriately counsel and treat (or refer if necessary) a patient for OUD treatment.
2. Fund Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) programs to reduce the transition from use to disorders.
3. Provide training and long-term implementation of SBIRT in key systems (health, schools, colleges, criminal justice, and probation), with a focus on youth and young adults when transition from misuse to opioid disorder is common.
4. Purchase automated versions of SBIRT and support ongoing costs of the technology.
5. Training for emergency room personnel treating opioid overdose patients on post-discharge planning, including community referrals for MAT, recovery case management or support services.
6. Support hospital programs that transition persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, or persons who have experienced an opioid overdose, into community treatment or recovery services through a bridge clinic or similar approach.
7. Support crisis stabilization centers that serve as an alternative to hospital emergency departments for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues or persons that have experienced an opioid overdose.
8. Support the work of Emergency Medical Systems, including peer support specialists, to connect individuals to treatment or other appropriate services following an opioid overdose or other opioid-related adverse event.

9. Provide funding for peer support specialists or recovery coaches in emergency departments, detox facilities, recovery centers, recovery housing, or similar settings; offer services, supports, or connections to care to persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues or to persons who have experienced an opioid overdose.
10. Provide funding for peer navigators, recovery coaches, care coordinators, or care managers that offer assistance to persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues or to persons who have experienced on opioid overdose.
11. Create or support school-based contacts that parents can engage with to seek immediate treatment services for their child; and support prevention, intervention, treatment, and recovery programs focused on young people.
12. Develop and support best practices on addressing OUD in the workplace.
13. Support assistance programs for health care providers with OUD.
14. Engage non-profits and the faith community as a system to support outreach for treatment.
15. Support centralized call centers that provide information and connections to appropriate services and supports for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
16. Create or support intake and call centers to facilitate education and access to treatment, prevention, and recovery services for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
17. Develop or support a National Treatment Availability Clearinghouse – a multistate/nationally accessible database whereby health care providers can list locations for currently available in-patient and out-patient OUD treatment services that are accessible on a real-time basis by persons who seek treatment.

D. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF CRIMINAL-JUSTICE-INVOLVED PERSONS

Address the needs of persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues who are involved – or are at risk of becoming involved – in the criminal justice system through evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

Support pre-arrest or pre-arraignment diversion and deflection strategies for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including established strategies such as:

- a. Self-referral strategies such as the Angel Programs or the Police Assisted Addiction Recovery Initiative (PAARI);
 - b. Active outreach strategies such as the Drug Abuse Response Team (DART) model;
 - c. “Naloxone Plus” strategies, which work to ensure that individuals who have received naloxone to reverse the effects of an overdose are then linked to treatment programs or other appropriate services;
 - d. Officer prevention strategies, such as the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) model; or
 - e. Officer intervention strategies such as the Leon County, Florida Adult Civil Citation Network.
2. Support pre-trial services that connect individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues to evidence-informed treatment, including MAT, and related services.
3. Support treatment and recovery courts for persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, but only if they provide referrals to evidence-informed treatment, including MAT.
4. Provide evidence-informed treatment, including MAT, recovery support, harm reduction, or other appropriate services to individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues who are incarcerated in jail or prison.
5. Provide evidence-informed treatment, including MAT, recovery support, harm reduction, or other appropriate services to individuals with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues who are leaving jail or prison have recently left jail or prison, are on probation or parole, are under community corrections supervision, or are in re-entry programs or facilities.
6. Support critical time interventions (CTI), particularly for individuals living with dual-diagnosis OUD/serious mental illness, and services for individuals who face immediate risks and service needs and risks upon release from correctional settings.
7. Provide training on best practices for addressing the needs of criminal-justice-involved persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues to law enforcement, correctional, or judicial personnel or to providers of treatment, recovery, harm reduction, case management, or other services offered in connection with any of the strategies described in this section.

E. ADDRESS THE NEEDS OF PREGNANT OR PARENTING WOMEN AND THEIR FAMILIES, INCLUDING BABIES WITH NEONATAL ABSTINENCE SYNDROME

Address the needs of pregnant or parenting women with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, and the needs of their families, including babies with neonatal abstinence syndrome, through evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Support evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising treatment, including MAT, recovery services and supports, and prevention services for pregnant women – or women who could become pregnant – who have OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
2. Training for obstetricians or other healthcare personnel that work with pregnant women and their families regarding treatment of OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
3. Other measures to address Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome, including prevention, education, and treatment of OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
4. Provide training to health care providers that work with pregnant or parenting women on best practices for compliance with federal requirements that children born with Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome get referred to appropriate services and receive a plan of safe care.
5. Child and family supports for parenting women with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
6. Enhanced family supports and child care services for parents with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
7. Provide enhanced support for children and family members suffering trauma as a result of addiction in the family; and offer trauma-informed behavioral health treatment for adverse childhood events.
8. Offer home-based wrap-around services to persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, including but not limited to parent skills training.
9. Support for Children’s Services – Fund additional positions and services, including supportive housing and other residential services, relating to children being removed from the home and/or placed in foster care due to custodial opioid use.

PART TWO: PREVENTION

F. PREVENT OVER-PRESCRIBING AND ENSURE APPROPRIATE PRESCRIBING AND DISPENSING OF OPIOIDS

Support efforts to prevent over-prescribing and ensure appropriate prescribing and dispensing of opioids through evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Training for health care providers regarding safe and responsible opioid prescribing, dosing, and tapering patients off opioids.
2. Academic counter-detailing to educate prescribers on appropriate opioid prescribing.
3. Continuing Medical Education (CME) on appropriate prescribing of opioids.
4. Support for non-opioid pain treatment alternatives, including training providers to offer or refer to multi-modal, evidence-informed treatment of pain.
5. Support enhancements or improvements to Prescription Drug Monitoring Programs (PDMPs), including but not limited to improvements that:
 - a. Increase the number of prescribers using PDMPs;
 - b. Improve point-of-care decision-making by increasing the quantity, quality, or format of data available to prescribers using PDMPs, by improving the interface that prescribers use to access PDMP data, or both; or
 - c. Enable states to use PDMP data in support of surveillance or intervention strategies.
6. Development and implementation of a national PDMP – Fund development of a multistate/national PDMP that permits information sharing while providing appropriate safeguards on sharing of private health information, including but not limited to:
 - a. Integration of PDMP data with electronic health records, overdose episodes, and decision support tools for health care providers relating to OUD.
 - b. Ensuring PDMPs incorporate available overdose/naloxone deployment data, including the United States Department of Transportation’s Emergency Medical Technician overdose database.

7. Increase electronic prescribing to prevent diversion or forgery
8. Educate Dispensers on appropriate opioid dispensing.

G. PREVENT MISUSE OF OPIOIDS

Support efforts to discourage or prevent misuse of opioids through evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Corrective advertising or affirmative public education campaigns.
2. Public education relating to drug disposal.
3. Drug take-back disposal or destruction programs.
4. Fund community anti-drug coalitions that engage in drug prevention efforts.
5. Support community coalitions in implementing evidence-informed prevention, such as reduced social access and physical access, stigma reduction – including staffing, educational campaigns, support for people in treatment or recovery, or training of coalitions in evidence-informed implementation, including the Strategic Prevention Framework developed by the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
6. Engage non-profits and faith community as a system to support prevention.
7. School and community education programs and campaigns for students, families, school employees, school athletic programs, parent-teacher and student associations, and others.
8. School-based or youth-focused programs or strategies that have demonstrated effectiveness in preventing drug misuse and seem likely to be effective in preventing the uptake and use of opioids.
9. Create of support community-based education or intervention services for families, youth, and adolescents at risk for OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
10. Support evidence-informed programs or curricula to address mental health needs of young people who may be at risk of misusing opioids or other drugs, including emotional modulation and resilience skills.

11. Support greater access to mental health services and supports for young people, including services and supports provided by school nurses or other school staff, to address mental health needs in young people that (when not properly addressed) increase the risk of opioid or other drug misuse.

H. PREVENT OVERDOSE DEATHS AND OTHER HARMS (HARM REDUCTION)

Support efforts to prevent or reduce overdose deaths or other opioid-related harms through evidence-based, evidence-informed, or promising programs or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Increase availability and distribution of naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses for first responders, overdose patients, opioid users, families and friends of opioid users, schools, community navigators and outreach workers, drug offenders upon release from jail/prison, or other members of the general public.
2. Public health entities provide free naloxone to anyone in the community.
3. Training and education regarding naloxone and other drugs that treat overdoses for first responders, overdose patients, patients taking opioids, families, schools, and other members of the general public.
4. Enable school nurses and other school staff to respond to opioid overdoses, and provide them with naloxone, training, and support.
5. Expand, improve, or develop data tracking software and applications for overdoses/naloxone revivals.
6. Public education relating to emergency responses to overdoses.
7. Public education relating to immunity and Good Samaritan laws.
8. Educate first responders regarding the existence and operation of immunity and Good Samaritan laws.
9. Syringe service programs and other evidence-informed programs to reduce harms associated with intravenous drug use, including supplies, staffing, space, peer support services, referrals to treatment, connections to care, and the full range of harm reduction and treatment services provided by these programs.
10. Expand access to testing and treatment for infectious diseases such as HIV and Hepatitis C resulting from intravenous opioid use.

11. Support mobile units that offer or provide referrals to harm reduction services, treatment, recovery supports, health care, or other appropriate services to persons that use opioids or persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
12. Provide training in harm reduction strategies to health care providers, students, peer recovery coaches, recovery outreach specialists, or other professionals that provide care to persons who use opioids or persons with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues.
13. Support screening for fentanyl in routine clinical toxicology testing.

PART THREE: OTHER STRATEGIES

I. FIRST RESPONDERS

In addition to items C8, D1 through D7, H1, H3, and H8, support the following:

1. Law enforcement expenditures relating to the opioid epidemic.
2. Educate law enforcement or other first responders regarding appropriate practices and precautions when dealing with fentanyl or other drugs.

J. LEADERSHIP, PLANNING AND COORDINATION

Support efforts to provide leadership, planning, and coordination to abate the opioid epidemic through activities, programs, or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Community regional planning to identify goals for reducing harms related to the opioid epidemic, to identify areas and populations with the greatest needs for treatment intervention services, or to support other strategies to abate the opioid epidemic described in this opioid abatement strategy list.
2. A government dashboard to track key opioid-related indicators and supports as identified through collaborative community processes.
3. Invest in infrastructure or staffing at government or not-for-profit agencies to support collaborative, cross-system coordination with the purpose of preventing overprescribing, opioid misuse, or opioid overdoses, treating those with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, supporting them in treatment or recovery,

connecting them to care, or implementing other strategies to abate the opioid epidemic described in this opioid abatement strategy list.

4. Provide resources to staff government oversight and management of opioid abatement programs.

K. TRAINING

In addition to the training referred to in items A7, A8, A9, A12, A13, A14, A15, B7, B10, C3, C5, D7, E2, E4, F1, F3, F8, G5, H3, H12, and I-2, support training to abate the opioid epidemic through activities, programs, or strategies that may include, but are not limited to, the following:

1. Provide funding for staff training or networking programs and services to improve the capability of government, community, and not-for-profit entities to abate the opioid crisis.
2. Support infrastructure and staffing for collaborative cross-system coordination to prevent opioid misuse, prevent overdoses, and treat those with OUD and any co-occurring SUD/MH issues, or implement other strategies to abate the opioid epidemic described in this opioid abatement strategy list (e.g., health care, primary care, pharmacies, PDMPs, etc.).

L. RESEARCH

Support opioid abatement research that may include, but is not limited to, the following:

1. Monitoring, surveillance, and evaluation of programs and strategies described in this opioid abatement strategy list.
2. Research non-opioid treatment of chronic pain.
3. Research on improved service delivery for modalities such as SBIRT that demonstrate promising but mixed results in populations vulnerable to opioid use disorders.
4. Research on novel harm reduction and prevention efforts such as the provision of fentanyl test strips.
5. Research on innovative supply-side enforcement efforts such as improved detection of mail-based delivery of synthetic opioids.

6. Expanded research on swift/certain/fair models to reduce and deter opioid misuse within criminal justice populations that build upon promising approaches used to address other substances (e.g. Hawaii HOPE and Dakota 24/7).
7. Research on expanded modalities such as prescription methadone that can expand access to MAT.