

Securing Buy-In

Medication-assisted Treatment Fact Sheet #1



Great Lakes (HHS Region 5)

ATTC

Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network
Funded by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration

Lack of buy-in can interfere with attempts to expand use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders (SUDs). Try the following strategies to build support for this evidence-based practice:

2 SHARE THE EVIDENCE. A growing body of research shows that MAT: *

- Saves lives
- Keeps people in treatment longer
- Reduces drug-related crime



4 ADDRESS CONCERNS ABOUT DIVERSION.

Have patients sign informed consent forms; institute random pill or film counts and observed urine drug screens.*



1 EDUCATE treatment staff, patients, family members, and the community. Offer info sessions that cover key points:

- The brain chemistry of substance use disorders
- The difference between addiction and dependence
- MAT is not “replacing one drug for another”
- The FDA-approved medications and how they work



3 USE NON-STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE. Talk about MAT as a tool for managing SUDs, rather than as “harm reduction” or “not abstinence-based.” *

5 SHARE SUCCESS STORIES.

MAT has helped many people succeed in recovery, often after repeated failed attempts at other forms of treatment.*

Success

6 PROVIDE STRUCTURE for treatment staff by establishing policies that define patient responsibilities for proper use of MAT.

7 AFFIRM OTHER ASPECTS OF TREATMENT. Reassure treatment staff, patients, and family members that counseling will remain a vital component of any MAT treatment plan.



8 USE A HEALTH ANALOGY. Having an SUD is similar to having a chronic condition such as diabetes or hypertension.

*See reverse for selected resources



Selected Resources for Securing Buy-in

1. Educate.

- [SAMHSA TIP 63: Medications for Opioid Use Disorders](#)
- [SAMHSA Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\)](#)
- [SAMHSA: Decisions in Recovery: Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- [ATTC Network Taking Action to Address Opioid Misuse](#)
- [NIATx Buprenorphine Implementation Toolkit](#)
- [PCSS-MAT](#)

2. Share the evidence.

The *Great Lakes ATTC/NIATx Medication-assisted Treatment Fact Sheet #3: Making the Case for Medication* lists selected research articles supporting the effectiveness of MAT.

3. Use non-stigmatizing language.

- [Recovery Research Institute: The ADDICTIONary](#)
- [Mid-America ATTC:](#)
 - [Language Matters: Using Affirmative Language to Inspire Hope and Advance Recovery](#)

4. Address concerns about diversion.

[NIATx Buprenorphine Implementation Toolkit: Addressing Concerns About Diversion](#)

5. Share success stories.

- [SAMHSA National Recovery Month Voices for Recovery](#)
- [Faces and Voices of Recovery](#)
- [Facing Addiction](#)
- [Shatterproof](#)