

Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Guideline Checklist

Healthcare Facilities Level 1



The current state of the issue

Opioid-related deaths continue to be alarmingly high despite the availability of effective medication treatment. Among those under 50 years of age, drug overdose is the second leading cause of death, increasing 12% in 2024 to exceed 71,000 lives.¹ Highly potent synthetic opioids (HPSO), most commonly fentanyl, are now the majority of the drug supply. Washington state death rates due to fentanyl have risen over 750% between 2018-2022, and in 2022 were almost 90% of all opioid-involved deaths.² Opioid use disorder is a chronic condition and must be managed as such. Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD), including buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone, are the most appropriate, evidence-based treatment in addition to harm reduction.³

Education

- Establish expectations that clinicians and care teams provide trauma-informed care according to most updated evidence-based guidelines (i.e., ASAM, PCSS)
- Provide staff with access to current, short guidelines regarding opioid use disorder (e.g., [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#), [National Institute on Drug Abuse](#)).
- Staff should understand how to have shared decision-making conversations with patients to present evidence-based choices for treatment.



- Discuss risk of serious adverse events including risk of recurrent substance use and overdose death with withdrawal management and counseling alone, compared to treatment with buprenorphine-naloxone or methadone.
- Utilize a patient decision aid to guide discussion.
- Draw from available provider facing resources for education
- Distribute copies of language guidelines to be used when discussing substance use disorder
- Staff should understand regulations around prescribing of MOUD (e.g., 72-hour rule)

Treatment

- Assess patients for poly-substance use, physical health comorbidities, and mental health comorbidities and tailor additional care to the patient's needs and wishes. Some patients may benefit from mental health or psychiatric treatment by well-trained providers providing therapy and/or appropriate medications. However, having onsite mental health care should not be a prerequisite to providing or receiving treatment for opioid use disorder, especially for patients who do not want or need additional mental health care. For patients with cooccurring stimulant use disorders, follow [ASAM Clinical Practice Guideline for Stimulant Use Disorder](#).
- Screen and treat for STIs, hepatitis C virus, and mental health concerns
- Be familiar with and provide alternative resources for access to medications for opioid use disorder in case patient cannot reach usual providers.

Recovery Support

- Identify which patient comorbidities will be treated onsite, criteria, and partners for referrals.
- Refer to outside programs and providers, including harm reduction programs, to meet other care needs as necessary using warm handoffs.

Resources

- The Bree Report is meant to supplement these resources.
- Full Bree Report: <https://www.qualityhealth.org/bree/wp-content/uploads/sites/8/2024/12/Bree-ODU-Treatment-Report-24-HCA-1203.pdf>
- Washington State Standing Order to Dispense Naloxone HCl: <https://doh.wa.gov/sites/default/files/legacy/Documents/Pubs/150-127-StatewideStandingOrderToDispenseNaloxone.pdf>
- StopOverdose.org: <http://www.stopoverdose.org>
- Retention Toolkit: <https://adai.uw.edu/retentiontoolkit/>
- Learn About Treatment learnabouttreatment.org
- Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) locator: <https://search.warecoveryhelpline.org>

Read the full Bree Report on Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder online by scanning the QR code:



Connect with the Bree Collaborative at bree@qualityhealth.org

References: 1. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2024). Understanding the opioid overdose epidemic. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/epidemic/index.html> 2. Alcohol & Drug Abuse Institute. (2024). Heroin versus fentanyl: What does the data say? University of Washington. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from https://adai.washington.edu/WAdata/heroin_versus_fentanyl.htm 3. Learn About Treatment. (n.d.). Medications for opioid use disorder. Retrieved September 16, 2024, from <https://www.learnabouttreatment.org/treatment/medications-for-opioid-use-disorder/>