

Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Guideline Checklist

Health Plans 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

Educate

- Educate members** on services provided to them and evidence-based treatment options for opioid use disorder using [destigmatizing language](#).



Access

- Make low-barrier access to MOUD as a strategic priority.
- Reimburse provision of treatment for smoking cessation. Individuals with opioid use disorder have very high rates of tobacco use. Patients who continue to smoke tobacco have higher all-cause mortality as well as higher rates of recurrent opioid use.
- Remove prior-authorization requirements for methadone, buprenorphine, and naloxone for all patients, including daily dose-based (e.g., 32mg of buprenorphine) and quantity-based prior authorizations.
- Minimize the total cost of care to allow for appropriately timed (e.g., more frequent) and personalized dosing of MOUD
- Cover buprenorphine initiation and continuation via telehealth (audio only and audio visual) in alignment with federal regulations

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-OUD-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
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