



# MEDICATION ASSISTED THERAPY IN EDS

Initiating medication for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in the emergency department (ED) of a hospital is an evidence-based strategy to preventing opioid overdose <sup>(1)</sup>.

## What is MAT?

Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT) is the broad category of using medications to treat substance use disorders.

## What is MOUD?

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is a specific subset of MAT that focuses specifically on OUD. Buprenorphine is the most common MOUD initiated in the ED and is also the best practice for pregnant women with OUD.

## MOUD Considerations for Pregnancy

According to American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), there is a growing body of evidence comparing outcomes related to methadone and buprenorphine treatment during pregnancy. Infants born to mothers treated with buprenorphine revealed the following:

- Shorter hospital stays (10 vs. 17.5 days)
- Shorter treatment durations for NOWS (4.1 vs. 9.9 days)
- Required lower cumulative dose of morphine (1.1 vs. 10.4 mg) compared to infants born to mothers on treatment with methadone

## Why Begin MAT in the EDs?

Medically supervised opioid withdrawal in an inpatient setting lowers an individual's tolerance for opioids. Should this person use opioids upon leaving the hospital, they are more at risk for an overdose.

Initiating MOUD within the ED allows a person to access help right away and increases treatment connection following through in the community <sup>(2)</sup>.

## Do I need a waiver to prescribe MOUD?

If you are prescribing buprenorphine for less than 30 patients, you do not need a waiver. If you are interested in obtaining further education around buprenorphine prescribing, or would like to prescribe for more than 30 patients, a waiver can still be obtained <sup>(3)</sup>. For more information for how to obtain a waiver, visit: [www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/become-buprenorphine-waivered-practitioner](http://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/become-buprenorphine-waivered-practitioner).

## Helpful tips to plan for transitions to the community after initiating MOUD in the ED:

- Maintain awareness of updates on prescribing requirements for MOUD.
- Prioritize smooth transitions back into the community. The success of a MAT program in the ED is dependent on smooth transitions into an outpatient program in the community.
- Stay connected to communities of other prescribers who initiate MOUD in the ED. There are state-led Project ECHO programs to offer education and consultation.
- Develop resources and establish relationships with community MOUD providers in your area and ensure relevant information is sent to the provider when a referral is made.

**For more information about MOUD prescribing in the ED, view SAMHSA's resources:**

- Buprenorphine Quick Start Guide
- TIP 63 – Medications for Treating Opioid Use Disorder

<sup>1</sup> [www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pubs/2018-evidence-based-strategies.pdf](http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/pubs/2018-evidence-based-strategies.pdf)

<sup>2</sup> [https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/SAMHSA\\_Digital\\_Download/PEP20-02-01-006\\_508.pdf](https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/SAMHSA_Digital_Download/PEP20-02-01-006_508.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> [www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/202104270930?utm\\_source=SAMHSA&utm\\_campaign=fb47cf10e7-HHS\\_AD\\_HOC\\_ANNOUNCEMENT\\_2021\\_04\\_27&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_term=0\\_ee1c4b138c-fb47cf10e7-167994837](http://www.samhsa.gov/newsroom/press-announcements/202104270930?utm_source=SAMHSA&utm_campaign=fb47cf10e7-HHS_AD_HOC_ANNOUNCEMENT_2021_04_27&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_ee1c4b138c-fb47cf10e7-167994837)