

# GLOSSARY - Operational Definitions for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Implementation Toolkit

## Agonist:

An agonist is a chemical that binds to a receptor and activates the receptor to produce a biological response. Can be full, partial, or inverse.

- » *Full Agonist:* Full agonist has high efficacy, producing a full response while occupying a relatively low proportion of receptors. Examples of full agonists are heroin, oxycodone, methadone, hydrocodone, morphine, opium and others.
- » *Partial Agonists:* Partial agonists bind to and activate a receptor but are not able to elicit the maximum possible response that is produced by full agonists. A key property of partial agonists is that they display both agonistic and antagonistic effects. Buprenorphine is a partial agonist medication for the treatment of OUD.

## Antagonists:

A substance that acts against and blocks an action. Antagonist is the opposite of agonist. Antagonists and agonists are key players in the chemistry of the human body and in pharmacology. An antagonist is a drug that blocks opioids by attaching to the opioid receptors without activating them. Antagonists cause no opioid effect and block against opioids. Examples of antagonists are naltrexone and naloxone.

## Buprenorphine:

An opioid antagonist that blocks other narcotics while reducing withdrawal risk; daily dissolving tablet, cheek film, or 6-month implant under the skin such as:

- » Bunavail (buprenorphine and naloxone) buccal film
- » Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) film
- » Subutex (buprenorphine only) dissolving tablet
- » Zubsolv (buprenorphine and naloxone) sublingual tablets
- » Buprenorphine-containing transmucosal products for opioid dependency

## Champion:

Individuals within an organization that volunteer or are selected to facilitate change.

## Clinical Institute Withdrawal Assessment for Alcohol (CIWA):

A ten-item scale utilized by medical providers in assessment of withdrawal symptoms.

## Clinical Opiate Withdrawal (COW) Score:

A COW Score is an eleven-item assessment scale of clinical opiate withdrawal. The scale is used to measure the amount of withdrawal a person is experiencing and the total score is used to determine if medication needs to be administered or if a higher level of care is needed.

## Controlled Substances:

A drug or other **substance** that is tightly **controlled** by the government through established regulations because it may be abused or cause addiction. The control applies to the way the **substance** is made, used, handled, stored, and distributed. **Controlled substances** include opioids, stimulants, depressants, hallucinogens, and anabolic steroids.

**Custody Staff:**

A Correctional Officer, Corrections Officer, Detention Officer, Deputy. A prison/jail/corrections officer is a uniformed law enforcement official responsible for the custody, supervision, safety, and regulation of prisoners.

**Diversion of medication:**

A medical and legal concept involving the transfer of any legally prescribed controlled substance from the individual for whom it was prescribed to another person for any illicit use.

**Medication Unit:**

Geographically separated from its “home” opioid treatment program (OTP), a medication unit must be located within 45-90 miles of its main clinic, which provides the full range of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services including individual and group counseling.

**Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT):**

The use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a “whole-patient” approach to the treatment of substance use disorders. This includes buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone for opioid use disorder (OUD), acamprosate, naltrexone and disulfiram for alcohol use disorder (AUD) and varenicline, bupropion and nicotine replacement therapy for nicotine use disorder.

**Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD):**

There are currently three Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved medicines for treatment of opioid use disorder which come in a variety of formulas and brands. The generic names of these medications are methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. Buprenorphine and naltrexone can be prescribed, and in some cases, dispensed in (non-OTP) medical clinics by qualified prescribers.

**Methadone:**

A clinic-based opioid agonist that is similar to morphine in its effects but longer acting and is used as a substitute drug in the treatment of morphine and heroin addiction daily liquid dispensed only in specialty regulated clinics. Methadone tricks the brain into thinking it’s still getting the drug of addiction. In fact, the person is not getting high from it and feels normal, so withdrawal does not occur. When taken as prescribed, methadone is safe and effective and can help individuals achieve and sustain recovery and to reclaim active and meaningful lives.

**Misuse of medication:**

Misuse of prescription drugs means taking a medication in a manner or dose other than prescribed; taking someone else’s prescription, even if for a legitimate medical complaint such as pain; or taking a medication to feel euphoria (i.e., to get high).

**Naloxone (Narcan):**

A medication approved by the FDA to prevent overdose deaths from opioids such as heroin, morphine, and oxycodone. It blocks opioid receptor sites, reversing the toxic effects of the overdose. Naloxone is administered when a patient is showing signs of opioid overdose including life threatening respiratory depression. The medication can be given by intranasal spray, intramuscular (into the muscle), subcutaneous (under the skin), or intravenous injection for the complete or partial reversal of opioid overdose

### **Opioid Treatment Program (OTP):**

OTPs (or Narcotic Treatment Programs (NTPs) refers to highly regulated methadone clinics. OTPs are the only places with permission to dispense methadone for opioid use disorder treatment.

### **Opioid Use Disorder:**

Opioid use disorder (OUD) can involve misuse of prescribed opioid medications, use of diverted opioid medications, or use of illicitly obtained opiates. OUD is typically a chronic, relapsing illness, associated with significantly increased rates of morbidity and mortality.

### **Routes of Medication Administration:**

*Oral*-a majority of medication (tablets and liquid such as buprenorphine, methadone, naltrexone) are administered in the mouth; *Sublingual*-medication (e.g., buprenorphine film or tablet) is placed under the tongue and absorbed over time; *Intramuscular* (IM)-medication (e.g. Vivitrol) is injected into the muscle – typically the deltoid muscle in the arm or the buttocks; *Nasal*-medication (e.g., spray or mist) into the nasal cavity (e.g. Narcan); *transdermal*-medication (e.g. Butrans) is absorbed through the skin.

### **72 Hour (or Three Day) Rule:**

An exception to OTP licensure requirements that “allows a practitioner who is not separately registered as a narcotic (opioid) treatment program, to administer (but not prescribe) narcotic drugs to a patient for the purpose of relieving acute withdrawal symptoms while arranging for the patient's referral for treatment - limited to 72 hours.

### **Sponsor (in organizational change/implementations):**

A person who introduces and supports a proposal.

### **Stigma:**

When someone views another person in a negative way because of a distinguishing characteristic or personal trait that's thought to be, or actually is, a disadvantage (a negative stereotype).

Unfortunately, negative attitudes and beliefs toward people who have a behavioral health condition, including substance use disorders (SUD), are common.

### **Substance Use Disorder (SUD):**

Disease that affects a person's brain and behavior and leads to an inability to control the use of a legal or illegal drug or medication.

For more information and resources as part of the MOUD Implementation Toolkit, please visit [www.healthmanagement.com/pajailmoud](http://www.healthmanagement.com/pajailmoud) or contact **Mary Kate Brousseau**, TA Program Manager, at [mbrousseau@healthmanagement.com](mailto:mbrousseau@healthmanagement.com)