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OUD Treatment in the ED - Quick Reference Guide

Resources to support the OUD Treatment in the ED Toolkit



Introduction

Best practice care for patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) has changed significantly in the last decade and it can be difficult to ensure these patients are offered and receive the medications and follow-up care they need in the emergency department (ED) setting. **There are many resources available, both nationally and locally, to help support EDs in treating patients with OUD. However, many remain unknown or underutilized.**

In 2023, Oregon Health Leadership Council (OHLC) released “Opioid Use Disorder Treatment: A Toolkit for Emergency Departments”. The Toolkit offers comprehensive guidance on how to build or strengthen OUD treatment programs in Oregon EDs.

[Click here to access the OUD Toolkit](#)

While many resources are contained within the OUD Toolkit, **this supplemental quick reference guide is meant to provide a more streamlined menu of available support**, including some new resources that were not included in the OUD Toolkit.

We hope to continue to update this guide as more resources become available and will post additional information at our OHLC [Best Practice Committee webpage](#).

Important note: some resources included in this guide were published prior to 2023, and therefore reference the requirement of an x-waiver to prescribe buprenorphine. **As of January 2023, the x-waiver was eliminated, and these requirements no longer apply.** There is now a one-time 8-hour SUD training requirement for clinicians applying for or renewing their DEA license.

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Literature

Using medications to treat opioid use disorder (MOUD) and connecting patients to ongoing care is the current standard of care, supported by a wealth of evidence. Nationally recognized organizations support initiation of buprenorphine as first line treatment of opioid withdrawal in the ED. Below are links with more information on current best practices.

ORGANIZATION	BEST PRACTICES
SAMHSA	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Use of Medication Assisted Treatment in the Emergency DepartmentMedications for Opioid Use Disorder (TIP 63)
ACEP & Oregon ACEP	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Emergency Quality Network Opioid ToolkitConsensus Recommendations on the Treatment of OUD in the EDOregon ED Opioid Prescribing Guidelines
CDC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Linking People with OUD to Medication Treatment

Models

Several MOUD models exist across the country that offer information and resources that may be helpful for EDs in providing OUD services.

MODEL	STATE	DESCRIPTION & LINK
CA Bridge	CA	MOUD initiation support for hospitals. Includes protocols, education, trainings, care navigation, and more
ScalaNW	WA	Medication protocols and trainings available to all. Technical assistance, follow-up scheduling, and consultation for WA hospitals
IMPACT	OR	OHSU addiction medicine consult team. Includes guidance, resources, training videos, and a consult line available to all

Education

Thorough and ongoing education should be provided to **all members of the ED care team** and include trainings focused on MOUD, addiction, harm reduction, and reducing bias in care for patients who use drugs. If you do not see what you need in the lists below, there are many more options available online.

Oregon-based

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION & LINK
CareOregon	On-demand trainings for SUD, fentanyl, perinatal prescribing, etc.
ECHO	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Recorded sessions for “SUD in the ED”• Multiple addiction medicine virtual programs
IMPACT (OHSU)	Video series to guide providers through common scenarios encountered when caring for patients with SUD
MHACBO	Live and on-demand trainings on addiction and mental health
Northeast Oregon Network	Rural Oregon Opioid Trainings
Oregon Medical Assoc.	DEA Certificate renewal program
Oregon Pain Guidance	Pain Education Toolkit for Clinicians
Trauma Informed Oregon	Free, on-demand modules on the basics of trauma informed care

National

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION & LINK
ASAM	Live and on-demand trainings, including ED specific courses
CA Bridge	Live and on-demand trainings for program implementation, treatment, care navigation, and harm reduction
National Harm Reduction Coalition	Virtual, self-paced learning modules for harm reduction
Opioid Response Network	No cost education and technical assistance for SUD Treatment
PCSS	Various training courses including MOUD, SUD for the Care Team, SUD 101, and 8-hour DEA training

Referrals

Ensuring patients have an outpatient follow-up appointment & social support secured prior to leaving the ED is the most commonly cited barrier by ED providers. Below are options for securing telehealth visits as well as locating referral partners in your area.

Telehealth Referrals

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION & LINK
Boulder Care	Virtual long-term treatment for opioid and alcohol addiction
HRBR Clinic	OHSU virtual bridge clinic for patients 15 and older

Referral Partners

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION & LINK
211info	Health and social service directory available online, via email, or phone
Coast to Forest (OSU)	County-specific mental health & substance use service guides
Connect Oregon	Closed-loop referrals to a network of health and social services
OHA	Oregon SUD Services Directory
BHRN Organizations	SUD treatment & other resources by county that are participating in regional behavioral health resource networks (BHRNs)

Expert Consultation

Consultation with a specialist can be helpful when treating complex patients. The OHSU Addiction Consult Line is available to any medical staff in Oregon.

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION & LINK
OHSU Consult Line	(503) 494-4567 – available M-F 8am-5pm

Medication Protocols

There are various methods for initiating buprenorphine or methadone in the ED, as well as dispensing or prescribing naloxone. Several sample protocols below are available to help EDs develop their own workflows.

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION & LINK
ACEP	ED-Initiated Buprenorphine Algorithm
AAEM	Management of OUD in the ED: White Paper
CA Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Buprenorphine ED Quick Start Guide• Buprenorphine Home Initiation• Methadone Quick Start
IMPACT (OHSU)	Methadone & Buprenorphine initiation recommendations
OHLC	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Sample buprenorphine initiation workflow• Tips for Dispensing Naloxone
SAMHSA	Buprenorphine Quick Start Guide
ScalaNW	Protocols for buprenorphine & methadone initiation, home initiation, and more

EHR Support

Optimizing use of your electronic health record (EHR) is essential in supporting efficient OUD treatment workflows, from triage through discharge.

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION & LINK
CA Bridge	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Clinical Considerations for Order Sets• Example EHR order sets• Sample discharge instructions
Colorado MAT	Sample discharge instructions, including home initiation
IMPACT (OHSU)	Order sets for precipitated withdrawal, traditional induction, macrodosing, and microdosing

Support Staff

Trained support staff available to help patients understand and navigate their care are a crucial element of any OUD treatment program. These support staff may include nurses, social workers, traditional health workers, SUD peers, etc.

ORGANIZATION	DESCRIPTION & LINK
CA Bridge	Substance Use Navigation Toolkit
IMPACT (OHSU)	Guidance for integrating peers into hospital settings
Prime+	No cost SUD peer support available in 24 of 36 Oregon counties
BHRN Organizations	Peer services & other resources by county that are participating in regional behavioral health resource networks (BHRNs)

Where leaders meet to
influence healthcare
transformation in Oregon.

Please get in touch about partnering or
discussing the future of healthcare
transformation.

Learn more at ohlc.org

Oregon Health
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