

# Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction in a Criminal Justice Context:

An Implementation Brief for Community Supervision



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## What is MAT?

- The use of **medication-assisted treatment (MAT)**, when combined with other counseling and behavioral therapies, has emerged over the years as an effective intervention for opiate-involved adult individuals to increase their chances of successful recovery.

National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)



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## Who should be on MAT?

- The decision to begin or end MAT is made between the individual and the medical provider, but the criminal justice system can play a key role in facilitating an individual's recovery process and reducing the likelihood of recidivism.



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## What role does MAT play in recovery?

- According to SAMHSA, recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential. Recovery is built on access to evidence-based clinical treatment, including MAT, and recovery support services for all populations.



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## What medications are used to treat opioid abuse?

- **Methadone** is a long acting medicine that reduces opiate craving and blocks the effect of opiates.
- **Buprenorphine** is a long-acting partial agonist that acts on the same receptors as heroin and morphine, relieving drug cravings without producing the same intense “high” or dangerous side effects (NIDA, 2012)



## What medications are used to treat opioid abuse?

- **Naltrexone** is an opioid antagonist medication that binds to opioid receptors, but does not activate them. (Also effective for alcohol dependency)
- **Naloxone: FDA-approved Medication to Prevent Overdose Death** Naloxone is an emergency medication that reverses an overdose, preventing death.



## Core benefits of MAT in community supervision

Benefits of MAT in community supervision settings include...

- Improving the capacity of participants to successfully fulfill other conditions of court involvement,
- Improved participation in treatment.
- Provides support and stabilization for ongoing recovery.



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## Core benefits of MAT in community supervision

- Support and stabilization
- Stable reentry and recovery upon release
- Reducing the risk of relapse to illicit opiate use, crime, and overdose death,



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# Implementation Roadmap

- 1. Identify operational partners*
  - 2. Identify other stakeholders*
  - 3. Define target population and expectations*
  - 4. Define clinical process*
  - 5. Define role of toxicology*
  - 6. Determine drug testing methods*
- 1. Identify possible incentives for compliance*
  - 2. Identify possible sanctions for non-compliance*
  - 3. Establish communication flow*
  - 4. Plan for transition*
  - 5. Identify and address potential barriers*
- 1. Identify possible incentives for*



## Contact Information

Phillip Barbour / Master Trainer TASC  
312-573-8354  
pbarbour@tasc.org



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