

FAQ's & Concerns

- Are these medications covered through Medicaid?

Yes.

- Which medication is best for me?

This is a mutual decision between you and your medical provider. Buprenorphine and naltrexone are available within DOC as a daily dose or a monthly injection.

- Will I have to take this medication forever?

It is recommended to use medication for Opioid Use Disorder as long as it is helpful. Discuss any change of medications with your medical provider. Treatment with medication is effective for long term recovery and prevention against opioid overdose.

- Am I going to be addicted to these medications?

This is a common concern and should be discussed with your medical provider or substance use disorder professional. Physical tolerance and dependence can occur, which is common with many medications used to treat chronic illnesses, but this is not "addiction".

Community Resources

WA Recovery Help Line:

Call or Text: 1-866-789-1511

www.warecoveryhelpline.org

206-461-3219 TTY

Overdose Prevention & Education:

www.stopoverdose.org

Never Use Alone—Overdose
Prevention Lifeline:

www.neverusealone.com

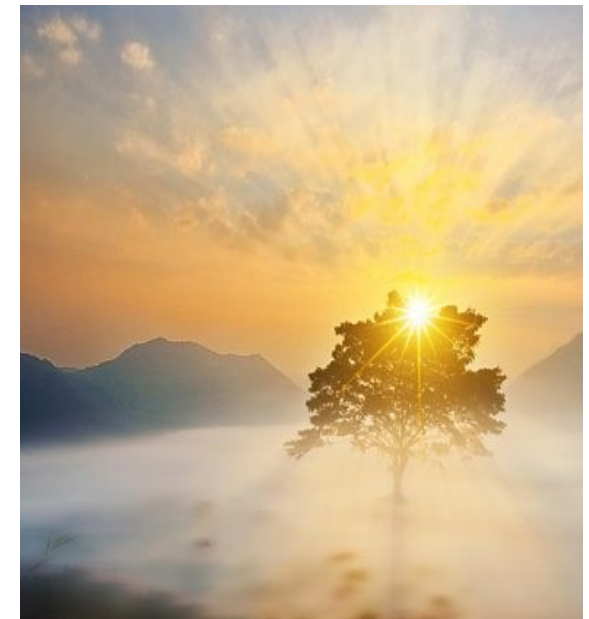
Department of Corrections Mission:

To improve public safety by positively changing lives.

Our commitment:

To operate a safe and humane corrections system and partner with others to transform lives for a better

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder



Why?

- Studies show that individuals releasing from prison are **100 times more likely to die from a drug overdose in the first 2 weeks after release** than other state residents. A high percentage of these deaths are related to opioid overdose.
- Opioid Use Disorder is a chronic disease which effects the brain. Medications have been proven effective in treating this condition, preventing overdose and supporting long term recovery & healing.
- **Medications for OUD cut the risk of overdose death by 50%**
 - Reduce Cravings
 - Stay in treatment longer
 - Stabilize your life to focus on recovery and goals
- The Department of Corrections acknowledges the necessity of medical care for individuals with OUD, and is working to provide timely and effective treatment to reduce overdose death and re-incarceration .

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

There are three medications currently FDA approved that have been proven effective in the treatment for OUD:

- **Buprenorphine**— a *partial* opioid medication; manages cravings and withdrawal by binding to opioid receptors and blocking effects of other opioids. Available as daily dose or monthly injection (Sublocade).
- **Naltrexone**— is *not* an opioid, but rather an opioid blocker, and can manage cravings for some people. Available as a daily dose or monthly injection (Vivitrol).
- **Methadone**— a *full* opioid medication; manages cravings and withdrawal by binding to opioid receptors.

Only buprenorphine and naltrexone are offered inside of Washington State correctional facilities. All three medications are available options in the community, at specific medical providers and treatment programs. None of these medications cause euphoria or a “high” when used as directed.

Who’s Eligible?

- You must be diagnosed with an opioid use disorder (OUD) to be prescribed medication for this condition.
- The diagnosis of OUD can be made by a medical or mental health provider, or a substance use disorder professional.
- *Everyone with an OUD diagnosis is eligible for overdose prevention education as well as a lifesaving NARCAN kit upon release.*

What’s Next?

- A MAT Coordinator will contact you close to your release to coordinate treatment .
- You may be started on a medication before your release date and/or referred to a community provider upon release.
- Treatment may be continued in the community as long as you continue to work with a community provider and it is helpful to you.