
Medication Assisted Treatment

Overview:

Medication assisted treatment, (MAT), particularly for opioid and alcohol use disorders, has an essential role in treatment of this chronic disease. Dopamine, the pleasure and reward chemical in our brain, plays a critical role in maintaining the addiction cycle. Subsequently when a person stops using drugs or alcohol they experience a significant drop in dopamine. This translates to low motivation, anhedonia and depression. Using medication assisted treatments like buprenorphine and methadone will help raise dopamine thus enabling a person to engage in evidenced based behavioral therapies. Learning about the medication assisted treatment for opioid and alcohol use disorders can be done through online or in person trainings. You will find several resources in this section that will build your knowledge, awareness and best practice evidence based care for onboarding this competency.

Core Videos to Watch:

- [Medication-Assisted Treatment Overview: Naltrexone, Methadone & Suboxone](#) (5 min)
- [Medication Assisted Treatment](#) (10 min)

Competency Reflection, Assessment or Demonstration

Now that you have reviewed the materials about medication assisted treatment (MAT) it is time to reflect on your experiences with this core competency.

In the space below write two case examples – one where you have had a positive outcome or effective interaction with someone who is prescribed MAT for their addiction disorder and one in which the intervention was not as effective.

Case Study #1 – The Effective Intervention

What were the characteristics, practices and values that contributed to an effective intervention?

What role did you play? How did you contribute to the success?

What impact or outcome did this have on patients?

Case Study #2 – The ineffective intervention

What were the characteristics, practices and values that contributed to the ineffective intervention?

What role did you play?

What impact did this have on patients?

Reflecting on what you've learned from this module – what would you do differently if you were involved in it again?

Additional Resources for Deeper Understanding:

- [National Practice Guideline for the Use of Medications in the Treatment of Addiction Involving Opioid Use](#) (American Society for Addiction Medicine)
- [Effective Treatments for Opioid Addiction](#) (National Institute on Drug Abuse)