



# Securing Buy-In

## Medication-assisted Treatment Fact Sheet #1

Lack of buy-in can interfere with attempts to expand use of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders (SUDs). Try the following strategies to build support for this evidence-based practice:



### 2 SHARE THE EVIDENCE.

 A growing body of research shows that MAT: \*

- Saves lives
- Keeps people in treatment longer
- Reduces drug-related crime



### 1 EDUCATE

 treatment staff, patients, family members, and the community. Offer info sessions that cover key points:

- The brain chemistry of substance use disorders
- The difference between addiction and dependence
- MAT is not “replacing one drug for another”
- The FDA-approved medications and how they work

### 3 USE NON-STIGMATIZING LANGUAGE.

 Talk about MAT as a tool for managing SUDs, rather than as “harm reduction” or “not abstinence-based.” \*

### 4 ADDRESS CONCERNS ABOUT DIVERSION.

Have patients sign informed consent forms; institute random pill or film counts and observed urine drug screens.\*



### 5 SHARE SUCCESS STORIES.

 MAT has helped many people succeed in recovery, often after repeated failed attempts at other forms of treatment.\*

*Success*

### 6 PROVIDE STRUCTURE

 for treatment staff by establishing policies that define patient responsibilities for proper use of MAT.

### 7 AFFIRM OTHER ASPECTS OF TREATMENT.

 Reassure treatment staff, patients, and family members that counseling will remain a vital component of any MAT treatment plan.

### 8 USE A HEALTH ANALOGY.

 Having an SUD is similar to having a chronic condition such as diabetes or hypertension.

\*See reverse for selected resources



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### Selected Resources for Securing Buy-in

#### 1. Educate.

- [SAMHSA Medication-Assisted Treatment \(MAT\)](#)
- [SAMHSA: Decisions in Recovery: Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- [ATTC Network Taking Action to Address Opioid Misuse](#)
- [NIATx Buprenorphine Implementation Toolkit](#)
- [PCSS-MAT](#)

#### 2. Share the evidence.

The *Great Lakes ATTC/NIATx Medication-assisted Treatment Fact Sheet #3: Making the Case for Medication* lists selected research articles supporting the effectiveness of MAT.

#### 3. Use non-stigmatizing language.

- [Recovery Research Institute: The ADDICTIONary](#)
- [Mid-America ATTC:](#)
  - [Language Matters: Using Affirmative Language to Inspire Hope and Advance Recovery](#)

#### 4. Address concerns about diversion.

[NIATx Buprenorphine Implementation Toolkit: Addressing Concerns About Diversion](#)

#### 5. Share success stories.

- [SAMHSA National Recovery Month Voices for Recovery](#)
- [Faces and Voices of Recovery](#)
- [Facing Addiction](#)
- [Shatterproof](#)