



Be in the know: MAT for OUD

What you should know about Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) for Opioid Use Disorder

What MAT IS:

MAT is the use of a medication to relieve the withdrawal symptoms and psychological cravings that can occur when someone stops misusing and opioid. MAT operates by *normalizing* brain chemistry in the person with an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). MAT blocks the euphoric effects a person may experience when using an Opiate, helps manage uncomfortable cravings, and normalizes bodily functions. MAT is used in conjunction with other behavioral health services and is not intended to be a stand-alone treatment.

What MAT is NOT:

Medication assisted treatment (MAT) is often mistakenly thought of as substituting one addiction for another. This popular misconception is not grounded in reality.

How MAT impacts functioning:

When provided at the appropriate and stabilized dose, methadone and buprenorphine have no adverse effects on intelligence, mental capability, physical functioning, or employability. Research studies demonstrate that MAT patients are comparable to non-patients in reaction time, and in ability to learn, focus, and make complex judgments. MAT patients do well in a wide array of work settings, including professional positions, service occupations, and skilled, technical, and support jobs. MAT patients are lawyers, engineers, secretaries, truck and taxi drivers, teachers, computer programmers, and others.

(above statement taken directly from https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/partnersforrecovery/docs/Know_Your_Rights_Brochure_0110.pdf)

How MAT is EFFECTIVE:

MAT has been shown to increase rates of survival, improve treatment retention, increase employability, improve birth outcomes in women who become pregnant and have substance use disorder, decrease criminal activity, and lower risk for contracting blood borne illnesses such as HIV or Hepatitis C.

Find Medication Assisted Treatment providers at the Prevention, Treatment and Recovery Locator on www.rethinkrxabuse.gov

Source: Above information was taken from SAMHSA's "Medication-Assisted Treatment Know Your Rights" brochure, 2009, found at https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/partnersforrecovery/docs/Know_Your_Rights_Brochure_0110.pdf and SAMHSA's informational page on Medication Assisted Treatment, which can be found at <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment/treatment#medications-used-in-mat>

