

COMMON QUESTIONS



Is MOUD just replacing one drug with another?

No. MOUD don't cause a high. They work to help with cravings, normalize brain functions, and reduce withdrawals, helping individuals achieve stability and recovery.

Am I still in recovery if I am using MOUD?

There are multiple pathways to recovery; this can look different for each person! MOUD can be a central component of long-term recovery, improving quality of life, reducing return to use, and reducing overdose.

How long will I be on MOUD?

OUD is a long-term medical condition. Some patients use MOUD their whole lives, others may gradually stop taking it. You and your treatment provider will work together to create a plan that fits your needs.

If I have other medical or mental health conditions, can I still explore MOUD options?

Yes. Having other medical or mental health conditions does not mean you can't take MOUD. MOUD is safe and effective and can be used even if you have conditions like depression, anxiety, diabetes, hepatitis C, or chronic pain.

EXTRA SUPPORT

Many people using MOUD choose to seek additional support. Talk with your treatment provider to find services in your area.



NAMI Medication Education

Learn more about MOUD options.
nami.org/about-mental-illness/treatments/mental-health-medications/



Treatment Locators

Search for a local treatment center.

- findtreatment.samhsa.gov
- michigan.gov/opioids/find-help/misud-locator



Overdose Hotlines

Virtual spotting.

- neverusealone.com/
- safe-spot.me/



FAN: Face Addiction Now

Free peer services either in person or by phone and help connecting to treatment.

- 833-202-4673
- faceaddictionnow.org

REFERENCE

1. Wakeman SE, Larochelle MR, Ameli O, et al. Comparative Effectiveness of Different Treatment Pathways for Opioid Use Disorder. JAMA Netw Open. 2020;3(2):e1920622. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.20622



SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER INITIATIVE

michigan-open.org/initiatives/substance-use-disorder/

for Medication Opioid Use Disorder

TREATMENT OPTIONS



MICHIGAN-OPEN.ORG



VIDEO: HOW ADDICTION CHANGES THE BRAIN

michigan-open.org/resource/neurobiology-of-addiction-video/

OPEN is partially funded by the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services. Updated 6.2025
<https://doi.org/10.56137/OPEN.000160>

OPEN
Prevention. Treatment. Recovery.

Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is the most effective treatment for opioid use disorder.

“MOUD allowed me to begin my life. I'm no longer ridden with the shame and guilt that I was before over my addiction. Really, I never imagined my life could be as good as it is now.” - Person in Recovery



WHAT IS OPIOID USE DISORDER?

Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) is a long-term health condition, like diabetes or high blood pressure, where a person keeps using opioids even when it causes problems in their life. Opioids are powerful medicines like oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl, morphine, or heroin. While opioids can help in controlling pain, they also have a high risk of addiction.

Someone with OUD might experience:

- Excessive focus on getting opioids.
- Strong cravings for opioids.
- Continued opioid use despite negative impacts on health, work, and relationships.
- Loss of control of opioid use.

HOW MOUD WORKS

MOUD works by acting on the same parts of the brain as opioids, but in a safer way. This helps reduce cravings and withdrawal symptoms without causing a high.

MOUD CAN:

- Reduce cravings for opioids
- Ease withdrawal symptoms
- Lower the risk of overdose
- Decrease opioid use
- Support long-term recovery

THREE MOUD OPTIONS



Talk with your provider about methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone.

Methadone and buprenorphine are associated with up to a 50% reduction in opioid overdose and death.¹



TALKING WITH MY PROVIDER: WHAT DO I SAY?

- Share your opioid use experience and your treatment goals.
- What medication do you think is best for me and why?
- Will I experience side effects?
- What other steps should I take to help my recovery?
- If I am pregnant, what MOUD option is the best for me and my baby?

MEDICATION	TYPE	FUNCTION	LIGHT BULB METAPHOR	
Methadone <i>Methadose</i> <i>Dolophine</i>	Tablet or liquid taken at a opioid treatment program	Long-acting opioid that treats withdrawal and cravings without causing a strong high when used correctly	Bright light – turns the brain's opioid switch all the way on, helping to feel normal without the highs and lows of opioid use.	
Buprenorphine <i>Suboxone</i> , <i>Brixadi</i> , <i>Sublocade</i>	Film, tablet taken at home or injectable given by healthcare provider	Partially activates opioid receptors enough to reduce withdrawal and cravings without causing a high	Partial light – turns the brain's opioid switch on a little bit, just enough for stability without getting high.	
Naltrexone <i>Vivitrol</i>	Injection given by healthcare provider	Not an opioid. Opioid antagonist so it blocks receptors that are occupied by opioids.	No light – blocks the brain's opioid switch from turning on at all.	