

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES AND RESOURCES

The roles and responsibilities that service operators, clients, and OAT prescribers have in working together to accommodate clients taking OAT in supportive recovery programs are outlined below.

Service Operators and Program Staff

- Ensure that all new clients taking OAT are able to continue taking their treatment without interruption or delay
- Support “unattached” clients who do not have a primary care provider in accessing medical treatment, including OAT, in the community
- Accommodate clients who must travel to their community pharmacy daily for witnessed dosing
- Protect clients’ rights to privacy and confidentiality regarding personal medical information, including use of OAT
- Document information shared by clients about their OAT treatment plan in their confidential client file and work with clients to keep this information up-to-date
- Provide access to evidence-based information and education about OAT to staff and clients
- Continue to encourage all clients to participate in on-site and community-based programs, services, and group activities
- Invite open discussions with staff and clients about any concerns they may have related to OAT
- Actively address stigma and discrimination against clients who take OAT
- Have naloxone available on-site and provide overdose response training to staff and clients
- If OAT is administered on-site, develop or revise standard operating procedures for medication administration to ensure client and staff safety

Client

- Share relevant information about their OAT treatment plan with program staff
- Attend regularly scheduled medical appointments with their OAT prescriber
- Attend appointments for random urine drug testing and pill/medication counts as requested by their prescriber
- Take OAT medication as directed, including travelling to the pharmacy daily if prescribed as daily-witnessed doses
- Contact their prescriber or pharmacist immediately if experiencing side effects or signs that their dose is too low or too high
- Contact their prescriber or pharmacist immediately if OAT doses are missed
- Participate in supportive recovery programs and services offered

OAT Prescriber and Care Team

- Work with patients to make treatment decisions about OAT including adjusting dose, switching OAT medications, prescribing take-home doses, and initiating gradual tapers when medically indicated and safe
- Monitor patient health, wellness, and safety by performing regular assessments
- Provide patients with referrals to specialist care, psychosocial treatment, and recovery support services as needed and when requested
- Provide patients with education on staying safe while taking OAT, including information about take-home naloxone and overdose prevention
- Work with patients to develop holistic treatment and recovery plans that include goals patients have set through participation in supportive recovery programs and services
- Encourage participation in supportive recovery programs and services and check in with patients on their progress regularly

RESOURCES

In accommodating clients on OAT, each supportive recovery program will have its own needs, questions, and challenges, and some individual clients may require extra planning and careful consideration to ensure their needs are met. Regional health authority colleagues will work closely with service operators to navigate these challenges and to develop the best approach for each organization and client.

Some additional resources that may be useful for service operators are listed below.

The [Addiction Care and Treatment Online Certificate](#) is a free online certificate course targeted at health care professionals interested in learning more about providing care to patients with various substance use disorders, including alcohol, tobacco, stimulants, cannabis, and opioids.

The [Provincial Opioid Addiction Treatment Support Program Online Course](#) is a free online course intended for all B.C. physicians, nursing and allied health professionals, and other care providers involved in the treatment of individuals with opioid use disorder.

The B.C. Centre on Substance Use and Ministry of Health's [A Guideline for the Clinical Management of Opioid Use Disorder](#).

The B.C. Centre on Substance Use and Ministry of Health/Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction's [Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder for Youth—Guideline Supplement](#).

The B.C. Centre on Substance Use and Ministry of Health/Ministry of Mental Health and Addiction's [Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder During Pregnancy—Guideline Supplement](#).

[Toward the Heart](#) provides harm reduction education and resources, including training on overdose response and naloxone administration.

The BCCSU maintains an up-to-date listing of OAT Clinics accepting patients in B.C. that can be accessed here: <http://www.bccsu.ca/oat-clinics-accepting-new-patients/>