



Session 12:

A Moderated Discussion of Current Events and Difficult Cases



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Objectives

- Share ideas and techniques utilized by different programs related to these situations or issues on various topics
- Discuss Difficult Cases and Current Events that effect alternative Programs.



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Issues Addressed by most ATD and Board Programs

- Medication Assisted Treatment
- Prescription Medication Use
- Program Referrals
- Professional Sexual Misconduct
- Cultural and Religious Sensitivity
- Mental Health Problems



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Medication Assisted Treatment For Opioids Use Disorder

(MOUD) is the use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a whole-patient approach to the treatment of substance use disorders.



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Common MAT Medications

FDA has approved several different medications to treat Opioid Use Disorder/Addiction.

- Methadone (agonist) used in MAT for opioid treatment can only be dispensed through a SAMHSA-certified Opioid Treatment Program.
- Buprenorphine with and without naloxone Suboxone®, Subutex® (partial agonist) can be prescribed by HCP with a DEA number and a minimum of an eight-hour course.
- Naltrexone Vivitrol® (antagonist) needs no special waiver or certification.



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MOUD-Upside

The ultimate goal of MOUD is full recovery, the ability to live a self-directed life. This treatment approach has been shown to:

- Improve patient survival
- Increase retention in treatment
- Decrease illicit opiate use and other criminal activity
- Increase patients' ability to gain and maintain employment



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MAT - The Downside

- Harm reduction model.
- Doesn't allow the brain to heal- research is ongoing.
- Buprenorphine is highly diverted, mis-used and often self-regulated and used to supplement drug use, not replace it.
- Very difficult to wean off in the outpatient environment
- Potential for cognitive impairment- especially when self-regulated.



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ADA DISCRIMINATION

Per DOJ:

Indiana Nursing Board is a Public Entity (Regulatory/Licensing Authority).

A.D.A. Title II prohibits disability discrimination by Public Entities.

Opioid Use Disorder is an A.D.A protected disability when the person is:

- ✓ *"successfully rehabilitated"*
- ✓ *"no illegal drug use"*

Nursing Board: abstinence was required; mandatory taper off Suboxone/Methadone

D.O.J.: an abstinence program with a total ban on M.A.T. is A.D.A. discriminatory



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Discussion

1. Does your program support the use of medications for opioid use disorders (MOUD) for participants with opioid use disorder?
2. Is Buprenorphine treatment problematic in the monitored healthcare professional?
3. How concerned are you that ADA protections for individuals with OUD may interfere with qualified medical decision-making in selecting the most appropriate treatment for the monitored health professional?



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Prescription Medication

- Does your board or program allow participants to take prescribed medications (ex. ADHD, Post-Operative, etc.)
- If so, do you require additional testing?



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REFERRALS

- Did you notice a decrease in the number of referrals since 2020?
- Has your program or board come up with new ways to encourage referrals?



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Professional Sexual Misconduct

- Does your program or board monitor professional sexual misconduct cases?
- If yes, what is your process?
- If no, why not?



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Cultural and Religious Sensitivity

- How does your state program address cultural and religious sensitivity?
 - a. Toxicology Screens
 - b. Religious Holidays
 - c. Overcome Language Barriers



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Overall Monitoring Compliance

Case 1:

- Male nurse, early 40's diagnosed with Alcohol Use Disorder, Moderate, and Major Depressive Disorder, Severe
- Toxicology: Breathalyzer, UDS, Peth
- Missed (2) Breathalyzer tests, resulting in PETH
- Positive PETH 224ng/ml
- While in treatment, participant disclosed consuming half 750ml of gin a day under monitoring >4 months



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Overall Monitoring Compliance

- Case 2
- RN, diagnosed with Opioid Use Disorder, Moderate, and Major Depressive Disorder, Severe. History of Chronic Pain and Chronic Relapses
- Toxicology: UDS, Hair
- Request to use Buprenorphine product (Suboxone)



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