



HEALTH  
MANAGEMENT  
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# ASAM Clinical Guidelines for Opioid Use Disorder 2020 Updates

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## TODAY'S PRESENTER



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#### *Disclosures:*

*Dr. Robinson discloses that they are employees of Health Management Associates, a national research and consulting firm providing technical assistance to a diverse group of healthcare clients.*

**At the end of presentation participants will be able to discuss:**

- + 2020 ASAM Updates:  
National Practice Guidelines for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)
- + Standards for treatment of people OUD who are incarcerated

## AGENDA



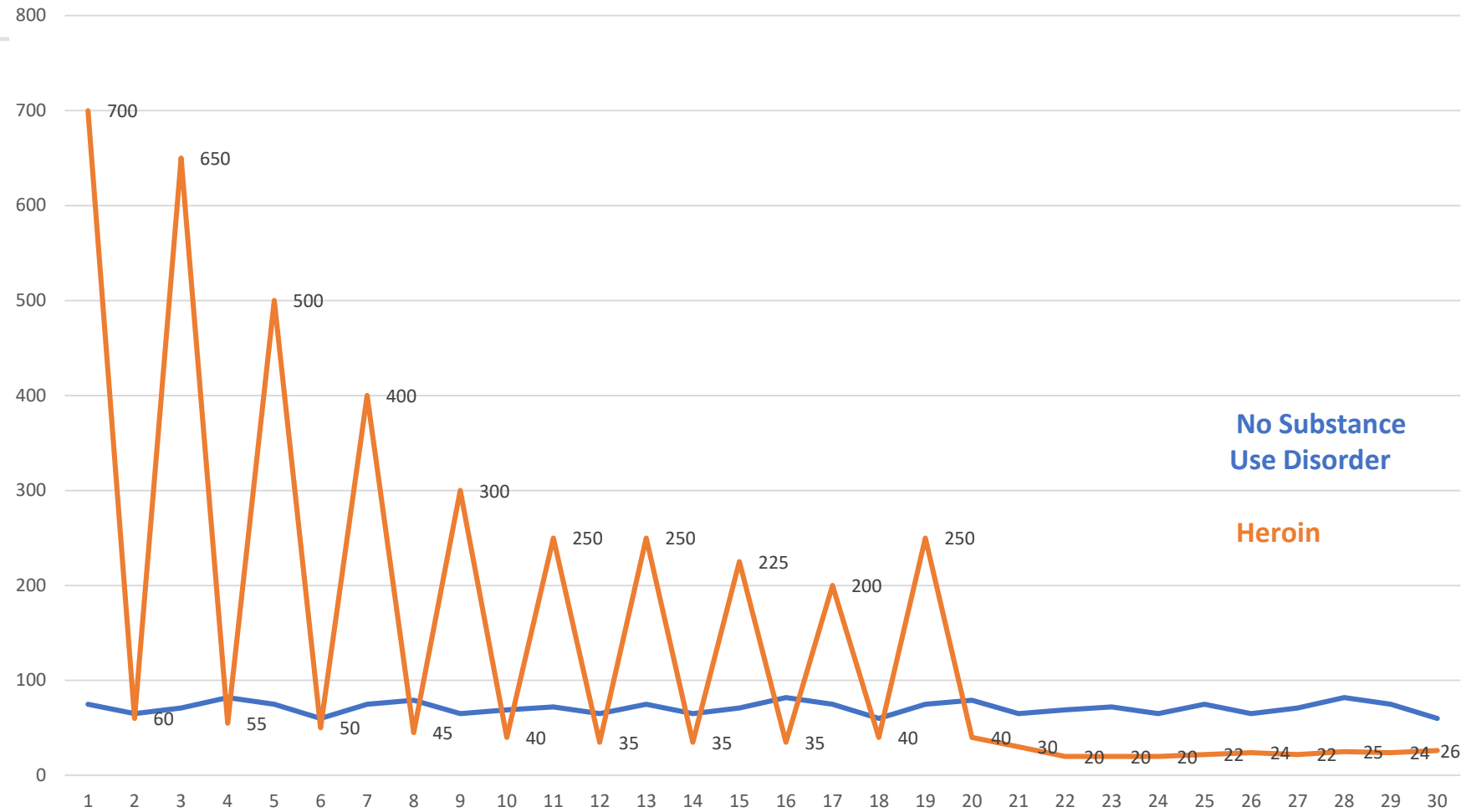
+ Introduction

+ ASAM Updates on opioid withdrawal

+ ASAM Updates on treatment of OUD

+ Questions

# INTRODUCTION



Dopamine levels vs. Episodes of heroin use

Source: Volkow (2015) Cell, 162 (4), 712-25.

# INTRODUCTION

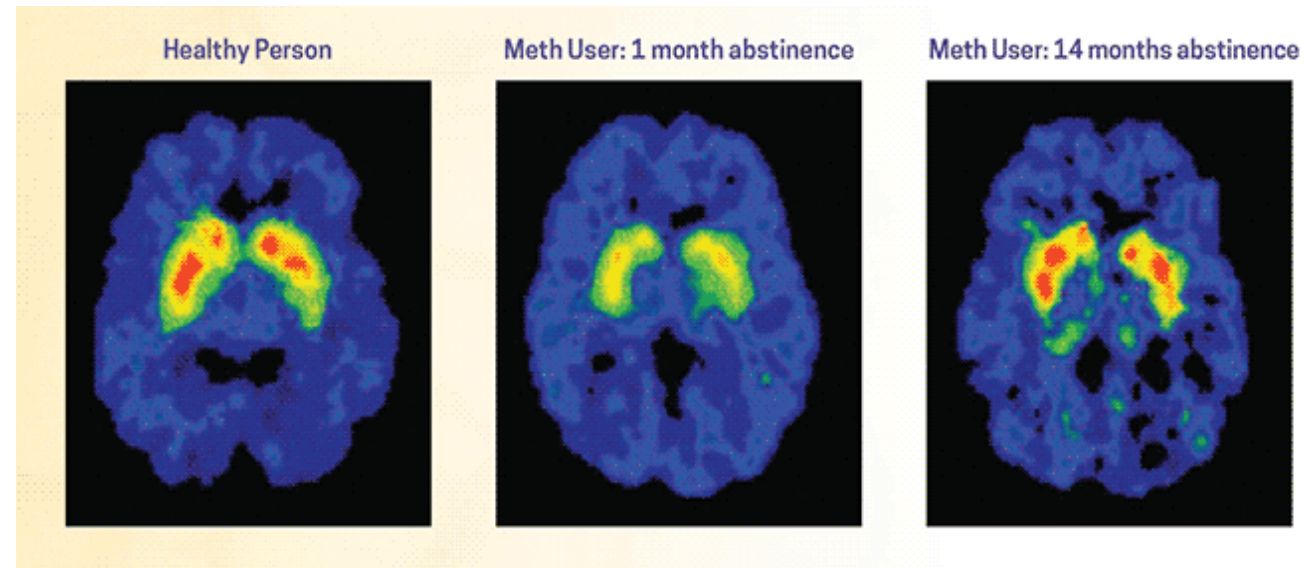


## RECOVERY TAKES TIME

- + Prolonged drug use changes the brain in long-lasting ways
- + And evidence shows that these changes are both functional and structural
- + Return to normal takes over 1 year

*These images showing the density of dopamine transporters in the brain illustrate the brain's remarkable ability to recover, at least in part, after a long abstinence from drugs—in this case, methamphetamine. <sup>51</sup>*

*Source: The Journal of Neuroscience, 21(23):9414-9418. 2001*



<https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugs-brains-behavior-science-addiction/treatment-recovery>

## WHY USE MAT?

### Treat opioid withdrawal (7days)

- Methadone or buprenorphine is recommended over abrupt cessation due to risk of relapse, OD & death
- Methadone or buprenorphine is more effective than alpha agonists
- Withdrawal management without ongoing treatment is NOT recommended
- Avoid deaths
- Avoid litigation
- Methadone
- Buprenorphine

### Address dopamine depletion (>year)

- Reward/motivation pathway
- Persists for months after people stop using
- Methadone
- Buprenorphine

### Treat OUD and achieve desired outcomes

- Patients more agreeable
- Patients less disruptive
- Decreased healthcare demand
- Retention in treatment
- Decreased opioid use
- Decreased overdoses
- Decreased ED send outs
- Decreases HIV & HCV
- Decreased criminal behaviors & recidivism
- Decreased death
- Avoid litigation
- Methadone
- Buprenorphine
- Naltrexone

## PEOPLE DIE FROM WITHDRAWAL BECAUSE

- + Failure to recognize withdrawal, because of other conditions
- + Failure to take withdrawal seriously
- + Failure to use opioid agonists to treat withdrawal
- + Failure to monitor withdrawal
- + Masking of underlying life-threatening conditions by withdrawal

### Opioid Withdrawal

- Fever
- Muscle aches
- Rhinorrhea
- Insomnia
- Nausea & Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Tachycardia
- Tachypnea
- Anxiety
- Lacrimation
- Dysphoria

### COVID-19

- Fever
- Cough
- Shortness of breath
- Muscle aches
- Rhinorrhea
- Insomnia
- Nausea & Vomiting
- Diarrhea
- Tachycardia
- Tachypnea
- Anxiety

Source: Fiscella, 2020 Drug & Alcohol Associated Deaths in US Jails. Journal of Correctional HealthCare 26 (2): 183-93



## ASAM 2020 OUD UPDATES: SPECIAL POPULATIONS- CRIMINAL JUSTICE

NEW

Forced opioid withdrawal should NOT occur

NEW

All FDA approved medications should be available

Major  
Revision

Pts should not be forced to transition to antagonists

Major  
Revision

Pts with OUD not already in treatment should be assessed and offered individualized pharmacotherapy

Major  
Revision

If OTP is not available, then an experienced provider can transition from methadone to buprenorphine

Major  
Revision

Decision to decline, or absence of, psychosocial tx should not preclude or delay pharmacotherapy

NEW

Naloxone kits should be available prior to release with individuals AND families being trained

Major  
Revision

Coordinate continuity of care to the community

## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: OPIOID WITHDRAWAL

Using opioid agonists is recommended over abrupt cessation

Initiate buprenorphine after objective evidence of withdrawal

Provide adequate buprenorphine to suppress withdrawal symptoms

Alpha 2 adrenergic agonists are less effective than methadone and buprenorphine

Withdrawal management is NOT a treatment for OUD

Treatment of withdrawal does not count for buprenorphine limit

Completion of  
assessment should not  
delay or preclude  
pharmacotherapy

## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: TREATMENT OPTIONS

All FDA approved medications should be available to all patients

Pts decision to decline or absence of psychosocial treatment for SUD should not preclude or delay pharmacotherapy

Use of other substances (including benzodiazepines) are NOT contraindications to pharmacotherapy

There is no recommended time limit for pharmacological treatment

Offer or refer to appropriate level of care with qualified Behavioral Health provider

Psychosocial treatment for SUD is NOT the same as treatment for criminogenic thinking

## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: BUPRENORPHINE

Buprenorphine is a recommended treatment for OUD

Office based and home-based induction are safe

Start with 2-4mg and increase in 2-8mg increments

>16mg may be more effective than lower doses

Buprenorphine discontinuation is a slow process accomplished over several months

Be mindful of emerging evidence as it becomes available with new formulations\*

## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: METHADONE

Initial dose ranges  
from 10mg to 30mg

Typical daily dose of  
methadone ranges  
from 60-120mg

Pts should be on  
 $\leq 30-40$ mg  
methadone before  
being transitioned to  
buprenorphine

Methadone is  
recommended for  
pts who are  
unsuccessful with  
buprenorphine for  
OUD

Methadone is  
recommended for  
pts who may benefit  
from daily dosing

## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: EXTENDED-RELEASE NALTREXONE

A recommended treatment for preventing relapse to opioid use disorder

Administer in the gluteus q 3-4 weeks

Oral naltrexone is not recommended except in highly motivated patients, unable to take XR, observed dosing

Transition to agonist can successfully occur after 1 day for oral and 28 days for injectable

Increased risk of death if return to illicit drug use, due to loss of tolerance



## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: SPECIAL POPULATION-CO-OCCURRING

Do not exclude people with psychiatric disorders from MAT

Offer or refer to appropriate level of care with qualified BH provider; address any life-threatening issues

Completion of all assessments should not delay or preclude pharmacotherapy

## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: SPECIAL POPULATION PREGNANT WOMEN

Assess for urgent medical conditions requiring immediate referral

Agonist treatment for pregnant women who are physiologically dependent

Informed consent for toxicology includes reviewing adverse legal and social consequences

Twice daily dosing is more effective & has fewer side effects

Agonist recommended for pregnant women with OUD; if already on naltrexone, then weigh risks & benefits of naltrexone compared to alternatives

## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: SPECIAL POPULATIONS- PAIN

Make an accurate diagnosis

Utilize nonopioid meds, behavioral therapy, physical therapy and procedural approaches

For pts with pain AND an active OUD, consider methadone or buprenorphine

For pts on methadone or buprenorphine increase dose or dose frequency

For pts with OUD who have pain, medication requirements will be higher than those without OUD

Pts on buprenorphine can be administered as needed doses of buprenorphine

Short acting (high potency) agonists can be effective when pts are on methadone or buprenorphine

Discontinuation before surgery is NOT required; if discontinued, then resume when need for agonists resolved

Naltrexone should be discontinued 3 days (oral)/ 30 days (injectable) before planned surgery

Naltrexone can be overcome by use of high potency full agonist

## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: SPECIAL POPULATIONS- ADOLESCENTS

Utilize your full range of treatment options, including 3 FDA approved pharmacotherapy, when indicated

Specialized treatment programs may be beneficial

Absence of or declining psychosocial treatment should not preclude or delay pharmacotherapy

Risk reduction interventions are recommended: safer injection practices & safer sex practices

## ASAM NEW OR MAJOR UPDATES: NALOXONE

Should be administered in suspected overdose

Should be administered to pregnant women in case of overdose

Patients and families should be trained on administration

First responders should be authorized to carry and administer

Naloxone should be available to everyone with OUD

In CA it's the LAW  
AB 2760  
1-1-2019

# DASHBOARD QUESTION: ARE ALL DETAINEES WITH OUD PROVIDED WITH NALOXONE AT RELEASE?

## + POLLING QUESTIONS:

### + DO DETAINEES LEAVE WITH NALOXONE IN HAND?

- + Yes
- + No











### + POLLING QUESTION # 2: IF NOT, THEN DO DETAINEES LEAVE WITH A PRESCRIPTION FOR NALOXONE?

- + Yes
- + No
- + NA

### + POLLING QUESTION # 2: IF NOT, THEN DO DETAINEES LEAVE WITH INFORMATION ON WHERE TO OBTAIN NALOXONE IN YOUR COUNTY?

- + Yes
- + No
- + NA

## ASAM AND THE STANDARDS OF CARE: MEDICATION FIRST

2003: Initiation and continuation of MAT was contingent upon	Outcomes: Continued use of opioids & possible death	2020: Medication is	Outcomes: Buprenorphine blocks opioid receptor & prevents OD & death
being face to face in clinic to look for evidence of IVDU and withdrawal symptoms		Not contingent	
completion of a biopsychosocial assessment		Not contingent	
completion of lab work		Not contingent	
use of no other substances and no relapses		Not contingent	
attending therapy		Not contingent	

## BARRIER TO TREATMENT: CONTINUITY OF CARE

- + At first dose of in-custody buprenorphine, provide every detainee with information card on how to access buprenorphine if jail release is precipitous
- + Work with county Public Health, Opioid Coalition, harm reduction folks, probation, courts, advocates to assure that detainees on MAT are a priority population at release
  - + Assessments done in jail accepted by community providers
  - + Immediate access to counselling and MAT upon release
  - + Track engagement in community treatment, recidivism, overdoses



## POLLING QUESTION

You are completing Mr. Johnson's SUD assessment. Mr. Johnson, agreed to start on buprenorphine when he saw the prescriber. Along with the medication, you refer the patient for counselling. But Mr. Johnson does not want to attend any counselling sessions. He said he's tried this before and feels it's a waste of time. What is the best next step?

- 1. Tell Mr. Johnson all patients must agree to counselling in order to receive MAT.**
- 2. Tell Mr. Johnson to just say he's going to therapy so that he can get the medication.**
- 3. Let Mr. Johnson know that counselling is optional and its up to him.**
- 4. Let Mr. Johnson know that counselling can be a helpful part of recovery, and you respect his desire to not attend counseling right now.**

# QUESTIONS



## NEXT STEPS

- + Please look for a follow-up email with:
  - + A poll with a brief evaluation - We appreciate your feedback!
  - + A link to the recording of today's webinar and the slides for reference: Feel free to forward to others on your team.
  
- + Save the dates for the next webinars in the series – invites coming soon!
  - + October 7 Stimulant Use Disorder
  - + October 13 Injectable Buprenorphine
  - + November 11 Methadone
  - + December 3 Opioid Withdrawal Management- COWS Training
  
- + For more information, please contact your HMA Coach
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  - + Carol Clancy: [cclancy@healthmanagement.com](mailto:cclancy@healthmanagement.com)
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  - + Shannon Robinson: [srobinson@healthmanagement.com](mailto:srobinson@healthmanagement.com)

*Thank you and stay safe!*

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- <http://www.NoMoDeaths.org/medication-first-implementation>
- <https://www.mbc.ca.gov/Download/Documents/AB2760FAQs.pdf> (naloxone prescribing FAQs)

## Evaluation for today's webinar

**1. Overall, today's webinar was:**

- A. Very useful**
- B. Somewhat useful**
- C. Not very useful**
- D. Not useful at all**

**2. The material presented today was:**

- A. At the right level**
- B. Too basic**
- C. Too detailed**