

**PCSS** Providers Clinical Support System

## Managing Pain in the Setting of Co-morbid Substance Use Disorder

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**ASPMN**  
May 13, 2020



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## Conflict of Interest Disclosure

- Presenters do not have any conflicts of interest



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## Dedication

- This presentation is dedicated to:

**Ellyn Schreiner, MPH, RN-BC, CHPN**, a dedicated pain and hospice nurse/educator and former president of the American Society of Pain Management Nursing (2015-2016). Ellyn was originally scheduled to moderate this session. She died from complications of COVID-19 April 14, 2020.



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## Target Audience

- The overarching goal of PCSS is to train a diverse range of healthcare professionals in the safe and effective prescribing of opioid medications for the treatment of pain, as well as the treatment of substance use disorders, particularly opioid use disorders, with medication-assisted treatments.


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## Educational Objectives

- At the conclusion of this activity participants should be able to:
  - Develop treatment strategies to treat acute and chronic pain in individuals with opioid use disorder receiving medications for opioid use disorder.
  - Discuss pain management strategies for individuals with pain who are currently engaged in illicit substance use.
  - Describe challenges in pain management strategies for individuals with substance use disorder in remission not utilizing medications for opioid use disorder


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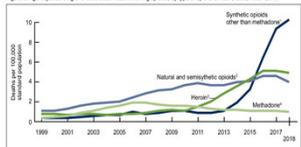
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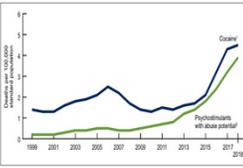
## Scope of the Problem



**Multiple drugs may have contributed to mortality**

Drug Overdose Deaths in the United States, 1999-2018  
<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/dds/drug-overdose-deaths-1999-2018.pdf>  
[https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/STATSTAT/stat/stat180305c\\_h.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/STATSTAT/stat/stat180305c_h.pdf)

- 67,367 overdose deaths (20.7 per 100,000)
- 47,590 involved opioids
- Increases in deaths from cocaine/psychostimulant




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### 2018: Treatment Need > Treatment Received

- Estimated 21.2 million people age 12 or older (7.8%) need treatment > estimated 3.7 million people age 12 or older (1.4%) received treatment

| Category   | Count        | Percentage |
|--|--------------|------------|
| Did Not Feel They Needed Treatment                                     | 17.9 Million | 84.9%      |
| Felt They Needed Treatment and Made an Effort to Get Treatment         | 392,000      | 2.1%       |
| Felt They Needed Treatment and Did Not Make an Effort to Get Treatment | 573,000      | 3.0%       |

<https://www.samhsa.gov/data/kits/details/ohhsce-topics/NSDUHNationalFindingsReport2018.pdf>

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### Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) – DSM-V

A problematic pattern of opioid use leading to clinically significant impairment or distress

- Opioids taken in larger amounts for longer than expected
- Unsuccessful attempts to cut down or control use
- Craving or strong desire/urge to use opioids
- Significant time spent in activities to obtain, use, or recover from effects
- Use in hazardous situations
- Continued use despite recognition of related social/interpersonal problems
- Failure to fulfill major role obligations
- Important social, occupational, or recreational activities given up due to use
- Use despite knowledge of physical/psychological problems
- Tolerance and withdrawal (not applicable when taken as medically indicated)

**Mild = 2-3**  
**Moderate = 4-5**  
**Severe ≥ 6**

<https://pcssnow.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/02/5B-DSM-5-Opioid-Use-Disorder-Diagnostic-Criteria.pdf>

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### Baseline Considerations

Does the patient have active substance use?

Is the patient in withdrawal or at risk for withdrawal?

Is the patient in remission from substance use (including alcohol)?

- On medications for treatment
- In abstinence-based program

Does the patient have adequate support systems?

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## Pain Management – General Considerations in the Context of OUD

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## Overall Goal – Harm Reduction

### Harm reduction approach

- Root in public health
- Do not endorse illicit drug use – accept as reality
- Minimize the 'harmful consequences
- What is ideal?
- What is realistic?

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## Consider...

- If active use, refer for addiction treatment if possible
- Close collaboration with prescribing facility is essential for patients with pain also enrolled in methadone or buprenorphine/naloxone maintenance programs
  - Maintenance medication dosed once daily not likely to manage pain

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## Pain Management

- Maximize use of multimodal analgesia to include non-opioids and when possible nonpharmacologic treatment
- Prescribe opioid therapy for pain **ONLY** if you have:
  - Experience or can collaborate with addiction medicine
  - Nursing and/or social work support to co-manage
  - Ability to prescribe small amounts frequently (every three days or one week)

Key references:  
Nonopioid pharmacologic treatments for chronic pain. **AHRQ Publication No. 20-EHC010 April 2020**  
Noninvasive nonpharmacological treatment for chronic pain. **AHRQ Publication No. 20-EHC009 April 2020**

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## Consider...

- Utilize universal precautions for opioid prescribing
- Recognize fears that may arise in patients- AT risk for relapse
- Support patients by ensuring safe, appropriate pain management

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## Employ Non-Pharmacologic Strategies (if available)

- Online Pain Self-Management<sup>1</sup>
- Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (CBT)<sup>2</sup>
- Mindfulness-Oriented Recovery Enhancement<sup>3</sup>
- Mindfulness Meditation<sup>4</sup>
- Combination CBT and acceptance based therapy<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Wilson et al. *Addictive Behaviors*. 2018; 86:130-7. <sup>2</sup>Barry et al. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2019;194:460-7. (2019). <sup>3</sup>Garland et al. *J Consul Clin Psychol*. 2014; 82(3):448-59. <sup>4</sup> Khushf& Vythinglam. *Military Med*. 2016;181:969-75. <sup>5</sup> Igen et al. 2016. *Addiction*. 2016; 111:1385-93

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## Ensure Prescriptions for Opioid Reversal

- Prescribe naloxone rescue kits for **ALL** patients who are:
  - On high dose opioids
    - > 50 mg morphine equivalent daily
  - At risk for overdose
    - Frail, organ dysfunction, etc.
  - Diagnosed with substance use disorder
    - Active use
    - On MOUD
    - In remission not on MOUD
  - Safety risks in the home



U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Surgeon General. 2018. <https://www.hhs.gov/opa/od/sites/default/files/2018-12/naloxone-coprescribing-guidance.pdf>

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## Acute Pain Management Strategies- OUD Active Use

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## General Considerations

- Utilize opioid sparing medications<sup>1</sup>
- Consider initiation of MOUD if patient willing to start<sup>2</sup>
  - No special waiver needed if admission was NOT related to OUD
- Intravenous Patient Controlled Analgesia (IV-PCA) may be best option to determine dose needs or use scheduled instead of as needed opioids<sup>3</sup>
- May still have withdrawal symptoms – treat with clonidine or tizanidine<sup>4</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Kumar et al. *Anesth Analg*. 2017;125:1749-60. <sup>2</sup>Vadivelu et al. *Curr Pain Headache Rep*. 2016;20(5):35. <sup>3</sup>Wenzel et al. *Anesthesiol Clin*. 2016;34:287-301. <sup>4</sup>DEA. 2018. [https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21-cfr/cfr/1306/1306\\_07.htm](https://www.deadiversion.usdoj.gov/21-cfr/cfr/1306/1306_07.htm) <sup>5</sup>Sen et al. *Curr Pain Headache Rep*. 2016;3:16. <sup>6</sup>Gowing et al., *Cochrane Database Syst Rev*. 2014;3:CD002024

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## Discharge Planning

- Develop safe discharge plan
- Refer to outpatient treatment if patient willing to engage
  - If not and have started MOUD inpatient will have to discontinue prior to discharge
  - Avoid a gap in care
- Prescribe naloxone for overdose prevention due to higher risk for overdose due to loss of tolerance

American Society of Addiction Medicine. 2020. <https://www.asam.org/about-us/quality-science/mppq/implementation/pdf/ken-oud-2020.pdf>; U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Surgeon General. 2018. <https://www.hhs.gov/odpids/sites/default/files/2018-12/naloxone-coprescribing-guidance.pdf>

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## Chronic Pain Management Strategies – OUD Active Use

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## Utilize Non-Opioid Analgesics Multimodal Analgesia

- Opioids may not be consideration unless
  - Serious illness
  - End of Life
- If opioids necessary consider
  - Frequent visits
  - Dispensing small amounts of medications
  - Frequent Urine toxicology screens
  - Friends/family to help
  - Assessment of home situation

Walsh & Broglio. Nurs Clin N Am. 2016;433-447

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## Acute Pain Management Individuals on Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD aka MAT)

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## Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

| Medication   | Action             | Dose  | Where obtained?  | Comments  |
|--|--------------------|---|--|---|
| Methadone  | Full mu agonist    | 60-120 mg (usual doses - may be higher or lower) PO once daily  | Must be administered through a federal Opioid Treatment Program<br><br>Patient goes daily for observed dosing<br><br>May graduate to take doses home on weekends or have weekly pick-ups | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provides analgesia for 6-12 hrs</li> <li>More than once daily dosing necessary for pain management</li> <li>Many drug/drug interactions</li> <li>Can cause QTc prolongation</li> </ul>   |
| Buprenorphine/naloxone<br>Buprenorphine (pregnancy)<br>Buprenorphine implants or injection | Partial mu agonist | 8-24 mg sublingual or transmucosal daily<br><br>320 mg implant<br>6mo<br><br>100-300 mg monthly injection | Prescribed by physicians, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants in ambulatory office setting who have waiver<br><br><b>Consider obtaining waiver</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>May provide analgesia if given in split doses (every 8 or 12 hours)</li> <li>If pure mu opioids administered, need higher doses</li> <li>Implants can be removed prior to six months</li> <li>Fewer interactions than methadone</li> </ul> |
| Naltrexone   | Full mu antagonist | 80 mg orally daily<br>380 mg monthly intramuscular depot  | Injection administered by any clinician who is prescriber  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Also used for alcohol use disorder</li> <li>Blocks the effects of opioids - not a good choice for those with pain requiring opioid therapy</li> </ul>  |

Source document for information in table Kampman & Jarvis. J Addict Med. 2015;9:368-367; Broglio & Matzo. Am J Nurs. 2018;118(10):30-8

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## Acute Pain Management and MOUD – Evidence

- No prospective designed studies
- Evidence based on limited controlled retrospective studies, case series
- Findings:
  - Continuation of methadone and buprenorphine during acute pain events is feasible
  - Discontinue naltrexone
  - Higher doses of opioids may be necessary in this population
  - Use of multimodal analgesia recommended but reported use is inconsistent

Veazie et al. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA ESP Project #09-199; 2019.

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## Methadone - Acute Pain

- Verify methadone dose from Outpatient Treatment Program (OTP)
  - If cannot verify (night/weekend), then can prescribe up to 40 mg daily (best in divided doses) or per institution policy
  
- Options for acute pain management with methadone only
  - Add additional doses of methadone to provide pain management – ex: 10 mg in afternoon and evening- Clearly document on prescription/chart for **'pain management'**
  - If can not use oral, utilize methadone IV at 50% of oral dose
  - Utilize methadone in split dosing (q6 – 12 hours) – clearly document AND discuss with OTP

Bryson. *Cur Opin Anaesthes*. 2014; 27:359-64; Harrison et al. *Anesthesiol Clin*. 2018;36:345-59; Koller et al. *Ex Opin Pharma*. 2019;20(16):1993-2005; Taveros & Chuang. *BMJ Support Pall Care*. 2017;7:383-9

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## Methadone - Perioperative Pain

- Continue methadone for opioid maintenance if possible
  - May need to decrease/hold dose in cases of hemodynamic instability
- Utilize multimodal analgesia including regional analgesia
- If utilizing opioids utilize least amount/lowest dose while maintaining analgesia- **May however need higher doses than those without OUD**
- Consider EKGs especially if utilizing other QTc prolonging medications
- Arrange for discharge plan if prescribing opioids for discharge (communicate with OTP)
- Prescribe naloxone for overdose prevention
- Ensure education on tapering opioids post-discharge

Cornett et al. *Cur Pain Headache Rep*. 2019;23:49; Koller et al. *Ex Opin Pharma*. 2019;20(16):1993-2005; Ward et al. *Anesth Analg*. 2018;127:529-47

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## Buprenorphine - Acute Pain

- Mu opioid receptors occupied by buprenorphine but not activated
- If patient requires opioids for pain – WILL REQUIRE higher doses to overcome occupied mu receptors
- If buprenorphine discontinued takes up to 72 hours to disassociate from mu receptors
- If patient admitted on buprenorphine with pain crisis/trauma/surgery

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## Buprenorphine - Acute Pain

- No consensus guidelines - **suggested options**
  - Continue buprenorphine – and split/increase doses and use multimodal analgesia
  - Continue buprenorphine (with possible wean to 12 mg daily) and treat with multimodal analgesia and immediate release mu-opioid agonists
  - Wean or discontinue buprenorphine prior to a surgery and use multimodal analgesia and mu-opioid agonists to treat pain – restart buprenorphine after acute pain resolves

American Society of Addiction Medicine. 2020. [https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npa-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=200a52c2\\_2](https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npa-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=200a52c2_2)  
 Koller et al. *Ev Open Pharma*. 2019;20(16):1993–2000. Luginon, Crook. *Anesth Analg* 2017;125:1779–83.  
 Ward et al. *Anesth Analg*. 2018;127:539–47; Warner et al. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2019. 1-5; Vesole et al. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA ESP Project #09-199; 2019

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## Buprenorphine Continuation

- Continue buprenorphine therapy and consider divided doses every 6-8h and can increase dose to maximum of 32 mg daily
- Utilize multimodal analgesia
- Treat acute pain with mu-opioid agonists such as fentanyl, hydromorphone or morphine or sublingual or intravenous buprenorphine if available
- Ensure monitoring for respiratory depression

**You can override the mu receptors with higher doses of opioids**

American Society of Addiction Medicine. 2020. [https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npa-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=200a52c2\\_2](https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npa-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=200a52c2_2)  
 Hanson et al. *Anesthesiol Clin*. 2018;36:346–59; Koller et al. *Ev Open Pharma*. 2019;20(16):1993–2000. Lember. *Pain Med*. 2018;20:Foundation for Medical Education and Research in Mayo Clin Proc. 425-6; Vesole et al. Department of Veterans Affairs, VA ESP Project #09-199; 2019; Ward et al. *Anesth Analg*. 2018;127:539–47; Warner et al. *Mayo Clin Proc*. 2019. 1-5

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## Buprenorphine Discontinuation

- May consider discontinuing on the day of surgery and it may require higher doses of opioid to overcome buprenorphine
- If wean over 3-5 days, if pain/intolerable withdrawal, use methadone 30 mg daily, immediate release or extended release opioid prior to admission
- If pain resolves allow for mild withdrawal -resume buprenorphine

**Must weigh risks discontinuing buprenorphine – higher risk for overdose if discharged without restarting buprenorphine**

American Society of Addiction Medicine. 2020. [https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npa-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=200a52c2\\_2](https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npa-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=200a52c2_2)  
 Blyson. *Cur Opin Anesth*. 2014. 27:359-64; Jovan et al. *Pain Physician*. 2018;21:E1-12; Ward et al. *Anesth Analg*. 2018;127:539–47

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### Naltrexone - Acute Pain

- Discontinue naltrexone IM 4 weeks or oral naltrexone 72 hours prior to planned surgery
- In event of trauma/acute pain/unplanned surgery may need to use 6-20x of usual dose of mu opioid to obtain efficacy
- Utilize multimodal analgesia to maximize analgesia without use opioids
- Do not restart naltrexone until one week to 10 days after the last opioid dose

Bryson. Cur Opin Anaesthesiology. 2014;27:359-64; Harrison et al. Anesthesiol Clin. 2018;36:345-59; Vozaric et al. Department of Veterans Affairs. VA ESP Project #09-199; 2019 Ward et al. Anesth Analg. 2018;127:539-47

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### Naltrexone - Acute Pain

- Discharge planning include plan for restarting naltrexone
- Safety plan for administration, tapering, storage and disposal if discharged with opioids
- Naloxone for opioid reversal
- Education about increased risk for overdose due to decreased tolerance

Ward et al. Anesth Analg. 2018;127:539-47

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### Chronic Pain Management Strategies for those on MOUD

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## General Principles

- Utilize multimodal analgesia
- Opioid therapy should be used only in cases of unresolved pain due to trauma, surgery or injury, progressive disease, end-of-life
  - Ensure use of universal precautions for opioid prescribing (treatment agreements, urine drug screens, prescription drug monitoring program checks, frequent follow-up and reassessment, communication with prescriber of MOUD)
- Utilize nonpharmacologic measures if available
- Always ensure there is a prescription for naloxone for opioid reversal


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## Methadone for OUD and Pain

- Collaborate with Opioid Treatment Program(OTP) as only these programs can prescribe methadone for opioid use disorder
- Individual continues with OTP
  - Some evidence for better analgesia utilizing methadone- ex: 10 mg in afternoon and evening- Clearly document on prescription/chart for 'pain management'
  - Can utilize other opioids if additional methadone contraindicated (prolong QTc) – USE caution not to trigger craving

American Society of Addiction Medicine. 2020. [https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/otp-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=00452c2\\_2](https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/otp-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=00452c2_2)

Tevence & Chang. BMC Support Pall Care. 2017;7:389-9


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## Buprenorphine for OUD and Pain

- Obtain waiver to prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone for opioid use disorder
  - Split doses of buprenorphine/naloxone for pain management – utilize up 24 mg daily (generally insurance approval becomes problematic at doses greater than 24 mg daily and no significant evidence for increased efficacy)
- Generally do not use mu-opioids with buprenorphine unless patient hospitalized with acute pain

American Society of Addiction Medicine. 2020. [https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/otp-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=00452c2\\_2](https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/otp-jam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=00452c2_2)

Stretzer et al. Am J Addictions. 2015;24:357-61


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## Naltrexone for OUD and Pain

- Utilize multimodal analgesia WITHOUT opioids
- If opioids required collaborate with addiction specialists to rotate to an agonist therapy

**Educate on risks for accidental overdose if relapse during transition**

American Society of Addiction Medicine. 2020 [https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npj-iam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=300a52c7\\_2](https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npj-iam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=300a52c7_2)

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## Acute and Chronic Pain Management Strategies in Remission not on MOUD

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## Treatment Strategies

- Multimodal approach including non-pharmacologic strategies
- Continue or engage in psychosocial programs
- Offer non-pharmacologic strategies if available
- Naloxone for opioid reversal even if NOT on opioids due to risk of relapse

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## Take Home Points

**1**

Consistently utilize safe prescribing techniques for individuals with opioid use disorder

**2**

**Treat patients with opioid use disorder with compassion – it is a disease, not a moral failing**

**3**

Consider further education on pain and addiction management if there are limited resources for referral in your community


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## Some Suggested Readings

- American Society of Addiction Medicine. National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder. 2020 Focused Update. [https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npg-iam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=a0a55c2c\\_2](https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/quality-science/npg-iam-supplement.pdf?sfvrsn=a0a55c2c_2)
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- Veazie S, Mackey K, Bourne D, Peterson K. Evidence Brief: Managing Acute Pain in Patients with Opioid Use Disorder on Medication-Assisted Treatment. Washington, DC: Evidence Synthesis Program, Health Services Research and Development Service, Office of Research and Development, Department of Veterans Affairs. VA ESP Project #09-199; 2019. Posted final reports are located on the ESP
- Ward EN, Quay ANA, Wilens TE. Opioid use disorders: perioperative management of a special population. *Anesth Analg*. 2018;127(2): 539-47.
- Wilson M, Finlay M, Orr M et al. Engagement in online pain self-management improves pain in adults on medication-assisted behavioral treatment for opioid use disorders. *Addict Behav*. 2018;86:130-7.


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## PCSS Mentoring Program

- PCSS Mentor Program is designed to offer general information to clinicians about evidence-based clinical practices in prescribing medications for opioid addiction.
- PCSS Mentors are a national network of providers with expertise in **addictions, pain, evidence-based treatment including medication-assisted treatment**.
- 3-tiered approach allows every mentor/mentee relationship to be unique and catered to the specific needs of the mentee.
- No cost.

**For more information visit:**  
[pcssnow.org/mentoring](https://pcssnow.org/mentoring)


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## PCSS Discussion Forum

Have a clinical question?

**Ask a Colleague**

A simple and direct way to receive an answer related to medication-assisted treatment. Designed to provide a prompt response to simple practice-related questions.

[Ask Now >](#)

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**PCSS** is a collaborative effort led by the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) in partnership with:

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|--|---|
| American Academy of Family Physicians              | American Psychiatric Association                                  |
| American Academy of Neurology                      | American Society of Addiction Medicine                            |
| Addiction Technology Transfer Center               | American Society of Pain Management Nursing                       |
| American Academy of Pain Medicine                  | Association for Medical Education and Research in Substance Abuse |
| American Academy of Pediatrics                     | International Nurses Society on Addictions                        |
| American College of Emergency Physicians           | American Psychiatric Nurses Association                           |
| American College of Physicians                     | National Association of Community Health Centers                  |
| American Dental Association                        | National Association of Drug Court Professionals                  |
| American Medical Association                       | Southeastern Consortium for Substance Abuse Training              |
| American Osteopathic Academy of Addiction Medicine |   |

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### Educate. Train. Mentor

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