

Initiating medication assisted treatment (MAT) during short stays: A model



Nearly two-thirds of people who are detained spend less than 1 week in jail. That means jails have limited time to deliver pre-release services to support safe and healthy reentry. HARP's model outlines the steps to initiate MAT for opioid use disorder (OUD) and connect an individual to case management during a typical short stay of 7 days.

Short stay MAT initiation model



During the intake health screen, the intake screener:

- Screens for OUD and withdrawal
- Obtains the necessary consent to disclose personal information
- Arranges for the facility's U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA)-registered practitioner to continue medications for OUD (MOUDs), if relevant



Immediately after intake, if the screen is positive, the DEA-registered practitioner:

- Conducts a MAT assessment and initiates MOUD on the same day, if the individual wants to begin medication
- Provides a supply of naloxone and either trains the individual on how to use it or provides instructions



Within 1 to 2 days of admission, the pre-release case manager:

- Meets with the individual to help them choose a community MAT provider
- Provides an electronic referral to the community MAT provider through an electronic health record (EHR)

Short stay MAT initiation model



On the third day after admission, correctional facility staff:

- Assign a facility navigator who will connect the individual to a specific community case management provider for post-release services.



On the fifth day after admission, correctional facility staff:

- Identify the specific post-release care manager
- If possible, arrange a telephonic or telehealth warm handoff



On the day before release, correctional facility staff:

- Provide the individual with information about their community provider



On the day after release, correctional facility staff:

- Send the complete discharge summary to the MAT and case management community provider

In this model, the pre-release case manager is responsible for monitoring the whole process, including:

- Projecting a targeted release date, if possible
- Adjusting activities if the length of stay is shorter than expected

HARP's "Serving People with Opioid Use Disorder During Reentry" toolkit has more information about initiating MAT in jails and other correctional settings.



Download the toolkit to learn more: healthandreentryproject.org/OUD-Reentry-Toolkit



Interested in health and reentry technical assistance from HARP?
Email TA@healthandreentryproject.org

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