

Medication Assisted Treatment Program

Overview

Patient who agree to participate in the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Treatment Program at this practice must adhere to the policies and procedure of the program. No exceptions to the rules. Failure to adhere to the rules will result in dismissal from the program.

Why Suboxone?

Suboxone is an oral medication used, and is approved for office-based treatment of opioid use disorder. Suboxone should be used as part of complete treatment including counseling and psychosocial support. Suboxone blocks the effects of other opioids.

Suboxone is composed of two medications: Buprenorphine and Naloxone. Buprenorphine offers several benefits to those with opioid dependency and to others for whom treatment in a methadone clinic is not preferred or is less convenient. Naloxone, taken orally has poor absorption and is added in order to prevent the misuse of the medication. Patients will work closely with the MAT provider to achieve their goals.

What to Expect

To be a part of the MAT Treatment Program, a referral must be made. After receiving a referral, the MAT team made of the MAT provider(s), nurse(s), behavioral health provider(s), and physical therapist will meet to determine who will be accepted into the practice's MAT program.

During your first appointment you will be given a substance dependence assessment, and physical exam. The pros and cons of medication will be explained to you, as well as treatment expectations. Agreement for Treatment with Suboxone will be presented for you to review and sign.

You may be asked to provide urine, hair, and blood sample or mouth swab at any time during the treatment process. You may be referred to supplementary programs, e.g. PFP, counseling, physical therapy, and/or Wellness Center.

Induction means, treatment begins. You may be asked to self-detox anywhere from 16 hours to 48 hours, or you may be asked to detox at an inpatient location, if necessary.

After a short detox period an appointment will be made. The nurse will assess opioid withdrawal symptoms. You are asked to arrive at the doctor's office in a moderate state of withdrawal. This is vital for medication to be effective. Precipitated withdrawal can occur if you are not in moderate withdrawal.

It is important to be truthful with the MAT provider about the opioid and other drugs used, and how much has been used. This information will be used to determine the timing of your first dose. Your first dose will be given in the office. You should feel better within 30 minutes. The MAT provider may give additional doses during the induction to find the appropriate dose for you. It is important to communicate with your provider and his/her staff how you are feeling. Your induction may last more than 1 day, you must come every consecutive day your doctor deems necessary.

Preparing to leave the office, the MAT provider will likely give you a prescription that will last until your next appointment. Appointment will be made coinciding with refills. The MAT provider may refer you to counseling or other supplementary programs. An appointment for registration should be made before leaving. After completion of induction, the MAT provider will require you to come for follow up visits. Your current dose its effectiveness and safety will be assessed at these visits. It is important for you to understand you will be asked to provide sample for drug screening, this is done for your safety. You will also be asked to bring your medication with you to each appointment. Failure to provide drug sample or bringing in your medication may result in dismissal from the program.

Second phase in treatment may include the MAT provider adjusting your does continuing to find a dose that works for you. Notify your provider or his/her staff if at any time during your progress you experience triggers or cravings. Your MAT provider may adjust your dose, refer you to counseling or other programs deemed necessary. You will also begin working on treatment goals. After achieving your treatment goals and feeling confident with progress made, your provider may decrease your dose preparing you for the next phase in treatment.

In the third phase the MAT provider will monitor your progress and discuss with you the timing and when to taper off. There is no set timeline. You, your MAT provider, possibly your counselor will decide when the time is right for you. Your dose will be tapered slowly, minimizing withdrawal symptoms. Finally and most important, if you feel at any time you're at risk of relapse, notify your MAT provider or his/her staff right away. Your MAT treatment team can continue the maintenance if necessary