

Terms to Know

Dependence	A state where the body adapts to the presence of a drug and presents withdrawal symptoms when drug use is reduced or discontinued.
Harm-Reduction	A treatment and prevention approach that encompasses individual and public health needs, aiming to decrease the consequences of addiction related problems. ² These can include needle exchanges and naloxone for overdose prevention.
Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)	The medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders. ³ MOUD is also commonly known as Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT).
Misuse	The use of prescription opioids in any way other than as directed by a prescriber; the use of any opioid in any manner, situation, amount, or frequency that can cause harm to self or others.
Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)	A disorder characterized by loss of control of opioid use, risky opioid use, impaired social functioning, tolerance, and withdrawal. ^{3,1}
Overdose	A potentially fatal medical incident where a toxic amount of drugs, or a combination of, drugs overwhelms the body. When overdosing on opioids, breathing, blood pressure, and heart rate will all slow and can lead to coma or death. ³
Prevention	An approach on helping people develop the knowledge, attitudes, and skills they need to make good choices or change harmful behaviors related to opioid misuse and OUD.
Recovery	A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential. ³
Remission	A medical term meaning a disappearance of signs and symptoms of the disease.
Return to Use	One or more instances of opioid misuse without a return of symptoms of OUD. A return to opioid use may lead to return of OUD symptoms. ³
Treatment	A process of diagnosing and treating individuals with OUD. Treatment can occur in a variety of settings and forms, and should always include options for Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) and behavioral therapies. Treatment is a long term process.
Tolerance	Alteration of body's responsiveness to alcohol or other drugs such that higher doses are required to produce the same effect achieved during initial use. ³
Withdrawal	A series of symptoms ranging in severity that follow the absence of opioids in someone's system after prolonged exposure. These symptoms can include nausea, muscle cramping, depression, agitation, anxiety, and intense cravings.