



CWTP

Substance Abuse Training Partnership



TOPIC

Medication Assisted Treatment – Supporting Parents & Assuring Child Safety

The opiate epidemic brings with it additional safety alarms for parents, teens and young adult children. Even while engaged with medication assisted treatment, there are added concerns for safety and well-being. This webinar outlines specific safety issues as they relate to various modes of treatment and important strategies for protecting children and families. Improved information sharing protocols and practices is applied as a critical strategy for developing effective cross-system communications that protect children and families.



KEY POINTS

1. Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is the use of medications with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders and prevent opioid overdose.
2. MAT with either methadone, buprenorphine or naltrexone markedly increase the chances of sobriety.
3. Families must be familiar and comfortable with MAT.
4. Effective communications among everyone involved with the opioid addicted person is essential to safety.



CHILD WELFARE APPLICATION

All medication assisted treatment needs to include a full range of counseling, behavioral therapies and recovery supports. When family members access medication-assisted treatment, there are particular safety risks that need to be monitored. A coordinated approach to communication, connection and collaboration across the systems of child welfare, substance use disorder treatment, courts and other community agencies is required to monitor these safety risks. Effective communication also needs to occur with family members.

- Drug Safety: Methadone and buprenorphine medications need to be stored in a locked container. Naltrexone can be stored like any other prescription medication in a safe place inaccessible to children.
- Age Differences: Decisions about medications for teens is different from adults as most do not have major physical dependence. If they do, buprenorphine is considered. With mild to no physical dependence, naltrexone is considered after detox is completed.
- Communication: The disease of addiction thrives on secrecy. People with active addiction often try to limit communication about their illness. Families must be able to give information to treatment providers and child welfare teams. Family members should not be able to receive information about specifics of treatment or counseling.
- Collaboration: The whole team needs to be on the same page together. In order to accomplish this, effective communication protocols need to be established.



LEARN MORE

Webinar Learning Tools

1. [Learning Assessment](#) – Assess your learning and identify areas for improvement. This tool can be used individually or as a team activity.
2. [Individual Learning Guide](#) – Spend some time on self-reflection and application of webinar content.
3. [Team Discussion Guide](#) – Use this guide for conversation with your team applying webinar content to collaborative practice.

Handouts

[Words that Make a Difference](#)

[Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction: Facts for Families and Friends](#)

[A Collaborative Approach to the Treatment of Pregnant Women with Opioid Use Disorders](#)

Resources

Ohio Substance Abuse Training Gateway. www.osatg.org

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) (2017).

[Medication Assisted Treatment; Buprenorphine; Methodone; Naltrexone](#)

[Opioid Overdose Prevention Toolkit](#)

[Decisions in Recovery: Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Tools](#)

Generations United (2016). [Raising the Children of the Opioid Epidemic: Solutions and Support for Grandfamilies](#)

National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (NCSACW) (2016). [Communication Pathways; Michigan Communication Protocol Blueprint](#)

Training

National Center for Substance Abuse and Child Welfare (2016) [Webinar Series on Opioid Use Disorders and Treatment](#)

[Ohio Child Welfare Training Program](#): Overview of Medication-Assisted Treatment in Substance Abuse, Learning #309-42



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This webinar is a product of the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program with additional support from the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services

Webinar # 4.28.17