

Opioid Treatment Programs and Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder

Considerations for Wisconsin Nursing Homes

This document is designed to provide information and resources to nursing homes regarding coordinating with opioid treatment programs (OTP) for the care of residents receiving methadone to treat opioid use disorder (OUD).

Background

In most states, the authority to oversee opioid treatment programs (OTPs) is granted to the director of the state alcohol and drug agency, also known as the Single State Agency (SSA). The specific responsibilities for overseeing OTPs are designated to a position that has come to be known as the [State Opioid Treatment Authority](#) (SOTA).

The Code of Federal Regulations Title 42, Part 8, Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorders, specifies the rules by which OTPs must abide to operate legally. The same federal regulation outlines the key responsibilities of a state agency in its oversight role of OTPs. In particular, the regulation designates this State Authority as “the agency designated to exercise the responsibility and authority within the State or Territory for governing the treatment of opioid addiction with an opioid drug.”

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) certifies OTPs, approves accrediting bodies, and supports education and training efforts to promote quality treatment services. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) regulates controlled substances to prevent the diversion and misuse of medication provided in OTPs and plays a role in regulating OTPs.

Opioid Treatment Programs in Wisconsin

Wisconsin Department of Health Services [Dose of Reality: Opioids Treatment and Recovery webpage](#) provides information about the locations of opioid treatment programs in Wisconsin and other helpful recovery resources.

Referral Tips for Individuals on Methadone for OUD

- Establish and develop a proactive relationship with the OTPs in your area.
- Consider all factors before determining if the individual’s needs can be met in the nursing home. This should include reviewing their past/current treatment, medical considerations, psychosocial needs, diagnoses, medications, and personal and treatment goals.
- Determine whether a supply of methadone can be safely dispensed to avoid withdrawal and ensure continuity of care.
 - Maintain communication/contact with the OTP the patient has enrolled in to ensure a seamless transition of care and avoid delays in treatment or disenrollment from the program. Contact should occur before admission to the SNF and when the patient is discharged.
 - Obtain a release of information from the patient that allows you to speak with the OTP.

- Each OTP will determine the appropriateness of providing a supply of methadone to be dispensed at the nursing home.
- Ensure that all policies and procedures related to narcotics counts are current.
- Request a verbal and written handoff from the referring organization for individuals who are receiving methadone for opioid use disorder (rationale for use, dosing, signs and symptoms to monitor for, and treatment plan).
- On admission, conduct a [detailed medication reconciliation](#).
- Ensure the patient has access to counseling services either virtually or in-person and has access to peer support opportunities (Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, Certified Peer Specialist).
- Ensure naloxone is readily available and staff are trained to use it. All nursing home staff should receive training in administering naloxone on hire and annually. This should include relevant policies and procedures and a competency assessment.

What is Methadone?

SAMHSA [provides information about methadone](#), how it works, safety considerations and the side effects to monitor for.

[ADA and Methadone](#)

The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) has determined denying admission to an individual because they are receiving MOUD is discriminatory. Consult with your legal department for additional interpretation of the law.

State and Federal OTP Guidance and Resources

- [eCFR 42 CFR Part 2 - Confidentiality of Substance Use Disorder Patient Records](#)
- [eCFR 42 CFR 8.12 - Federal opioid treatment standards.](#)
- [Federal Register: Medications for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- [WI DHS Chapter 51 Mental Health Act](#)
- [WI DHS Chapter 75 \(75.59\) Community Substance Use Service Standards](#)
- [WI DHS Chapter 94 Patient Rights and Resolution of Patient Grievances](#)