SUPERIOR HEALTH QUALITY ALLIANCE INVITES YOU TO TAKE THE PLEDGE

People with substance use disorder (SUD) have a medical condition and need medical care. Yet the language often used to describe people with substance use disorders tends to blame or demean them, creating a stigma that interferes with their opportunity to seek treatment.

Eliminating stigma is one of the first steps to helping people with substance use disorders access the medical care they need.

Examples of person-centered language: To help people with a substance use disorder feel more comfortable asking for the care they need, please consider the use of person-centered language. (See below)



Historical Stigmatizing Language

Addict, junkie, alcoholic, drunk, drug user

Former addict, reformed addict

Failed a drug test, dirty screen

Clean

Drug abuse / dependence

Person-Centered Language

Person with a substance use disorder

Person in recovery

Tested positive on a drug screen

In remission, abstinent, tested negative on a drug screen Use of (illicit drug), misuse of (prescription medication)



Use the QR code at left to go to Superior Health's **Shine a Light on Stigma** website and take your pledge. You can also learn more about people who have substance use disorders and how to use person-centered language.

Visist https://www.superiorhealthqa.org/initiatives/qin-qio/shinealightonstigma/ for more information.

This material was prepared by the Superior Health Quality Alliance, a Quality Innovation Network-Quality Improvement Organization under contract with the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), an agency of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS). Views expressed in this material do not necessarily reflect the official views or policy of CMS or HHS, and any reference to a specific product or entity herein does not constitute endorsement of that product or entity by CMS or HHS. 1250W-MI/MN/WI-CC-23-206 071223





