

Words Matter Wallet Card

Cut and fold the wallet-sized resource below for a quick reference on which words to use, and which to avoid when referencing substance use disorder.

1. Cut along the black outline



• Opioid replacement, methadone maintenance

• Former/reformed addict/alcoholic

• A clean/dirty drug screen

• Drug abuse/abuser

• Drug problem/habit

• Alcoholic

• Addict

Words Matter: Words to avoid.

Words Matter: Words to use.

- Person with substance use disorder
- Person with alcohol use disorder
- Substance use disorder
- Drug misuse, harmful use
- Testing negative/positive for substance use
- Person in (long-term) recovery
- Medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD)

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2. Fold here

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