

INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON HEROIN, OPIOIDS, AND PAIN EFFORTS (HOPE COMMITTEE)

INDIAN HEALTH CARE: ENSURING A COORDINATED, HOLISTIC RESPONSE FOR PERSONS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

TREATMENT AND RECOVERY MANAGING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER

Managing Substance Use Disorder: Importance of Team-Based Approaches

Integrated care teams support patient outcomes by offering comprehensive and coordinated care that is centered around the needs of the patient — known as “team-based case” where the patient is the most important member of the team. Patients and their providers create a relationship built on trust that allows for shared-decision making, co-development of treatment goals and both have an understanding of the patient’s preferences related to managing their own health care.

Team-based care involves whole health approaches to health living, which is also essential to opioid stewardship. They both emphasize collaborative approaches to care and support care plans that use alternatives to opioids for pain control.

Integrated care teams can take certain actions that support team-based care and successful opioid stewardship:

- Establish adequate patient appointment time to promote positive patient relationships
- Offer the patient multiple opportunities to share their story and promote their engagement during appointments ensuring to remain in active listening mode
- Support open and friendly conversations about naloxone with any patient or family member who is curious or would benefit from the medication
- Emphasize comprehensive and culturally sensitive patient screening approaches
- If available, connect patients to community services or substance use disorder programs

Well-Balanced Opioid Stewardship Plans:

Effective opioid stewardship strategies emphasize safe opioid prescribing, team-based care, leadership support, and use data to inform clinical decisions that will improve health outcomes for patients diagnosed with chronic pain syndrome or opioid use disorder (OUD).

The IHS Opioid Surveillance Dashboard (OSD) is a tool to support stewardship initiatives at your site and the guidance documents can help streamline utilization of the dashboard.

IHS OSD Training Videos:

- [IHS Opioid Surveillance Dashboard Overview](#)
- [Getting Access to the IHS Opioid Surveillance Dashboard](#)
- [Incorporating data into Opioid Stewardship Plans](#)

OSD [Office Hours](#) continue on the 3rd Friday through May.



Join us to:

- Ask questions about the dashboard.
- Understand dashboard capability.
- Address real-world scenarios in dashboard use.
- Teach new techniques.
- Offer dashboard requests, recommendations or enhancements.



Learn more at ihs.gov/opioids
or scan the QR code now!

Special Populations: Pregnant Persons

Clinicians can impact and improve outcomes for AI / AN pregnant and parenting people (PPP) experiencing substance use disorder (SUD). To assist these efforts, the Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board (NPAIHB), alongside clinicians and individuals in recovery, developed a Plans of Safe Care [Toolkit](#).



The toolkit includes a comprehensive [guide](#) for clinicians, handouts for PPP and their supports, and posts to share on social media. It is designed to help clinicians care for PPP and their infants impacted by SUDs, support PPP's transition into and remain in active recovery, and assist affected partners and families in growing stronger. Additional resources available:

- Plans of Safe Care [Video](#)
- Provider Video: [Community Healing - Best Practices](#)
- Patient Video: [Sharing Our Stories - Living a Beautiful Life in Recovery](#)

Importance of screening: Strategies to use in day to day practice

Knowledge is valuable to understanding a patient's health needs. When you screen for substance use, you identify patients [who may have or be at risk](#) of developing SUD. Regular and universal screening for substance use should be completed in the medical setting, regardless of medical complaint. Screening and brief intervention provides an opportunity for healthcare providers to intervene early and potentially enhance medical care by increasing awareness of the likely impact of substance use on a patient's overall health.

Consider this available [training](#) when evaluating screening strategies to employ in practice. This in-depth discussion on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) will illustrate best practices and practice improvement in SUD screening, examine practices for treatment referral or treatment initiation for patients screening positive for OUD, and discussion to support SBIRT implementation strategies.

CLINICIAN-TO-CLINICIAN
SUBSTANCE USE WARMLINE
(855) 300-3595
6am—5pm PST (Mon-Fri)

Removal of the DATA Waiver: The Highlights

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2023 eliminated the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000's (DATA) waiver requirement for prescribing buprenorphine for OUD. The removal of administrative barriers to buprenorphine prescribing supports Indian healthcare providers in efficiently and effectively providing evidence-based treatment, strengthens the provider-patient relationship, and supports persons in recovery.

Recent Changes to the Controlled Substance Act:

1. **January 12:** The DEA notified registrants that a DATA-Waiver will no longer be required to prescribe buprenorphine for opioid use disorder
2. **January 25:** SAMHSA stopped accepting waiver applications and posted on their website:

"All practitioners who have a current DEA registration that includes Schedule III authoring, may now prescribe buprenorphine for OUD in their practice if permitted by applicable state law and SAMHSA encourages them to do so."

[Clinical guidance](#) available from National Pharmacy & Therapeutics [Committee!](#)

- Buprenorphine/naloxone (Suboxone) is included on the IHS National Core Formulary, recommend to follow local policies and procedures related to dispensing controlled substances.

Learn More:

- Advancing [Pharmacists' Role](#) in SUD Treatment & Recovery Teams
- [Provider Clinical Support](#)
- IndianCountry [EHCOs](#)