

# Facts About Medications for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

Scientific research shows that the effectiveness of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) is strong. However, many individuals living with an opioid use disorder do not access this life saving treatment as a result of stigma or other misconceptions. Let's be clear about the facts.

## Fact 1:

### MOUD treatment saves lives.

Using FDA-approved Medications for Opioid Use Disorder reduces the risk of overdose and death among individuals living with an Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).

## Fact 2:

### MOUD keeps people safe.

MOUD is clinically proven to reduce the risk of relapse, overdose and risky behaviors. These medications can also improve treatment retention and decrease risk of contracting infectious diseases. Overall health and wellbeing can be improved with the use of these approved medications.

## Fact 3:

### MOUD provides a whole-patient approach.

MOUD is tailored specifically to each individual. The medication alleviates the physical and mental symptoms associated with opioid withdrawal while counseling promotes positive behavior and lifestyle change.

## Fact 4:

### Recovery is possible.

Engaging in MOUD allows individuals the ability to live self-directed lives and the space to work on various aspects of recovery.



## You don't have to go it alone.

Individuals engaging in substance misuse or living with a diagnosed substance use disorder may feel isolated and unsure of where to seek help. There are several MOUD-licensed providers in South Dakota ready to assist and support you on your path to recovery.

If you or a loved one are concerned about your or someone's substance use, call, text or chat with a trained professional at 988 who can connect you with a Care Coordinator. This free, confidential service is available 24/7.




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# Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

## MOUD is one of the most effective evidence-based treatment options.





# Myths About Medications for Opioid Use Disorder

## Myth 1:

**“It’s just trading one addiction for another.”**

Medications for OUD do not get a person high — instead, the medications work to:

- Block the euphoric effects of opioids
- Relieve cravings
- Normalize brain chemistry
- Normalize physical functions without withdrawal effects

Engaging in medication treatment for opioid use disorder can be similar to taking medications for other chronic diseases, such as diabetes or asthma. When taken as prescribed by a medical professional, the medication is safe and effective.



## Myth 2:

**“If you’re using Medications for Opioid Use Disorder, you’re not in recovery.”**

There are many paths to recovery from an OUD beyond abstinence. MOUD can be a central component to long-term recovery.

## Myth 3:

**“There’s no proof that MOUD is more effective than abstinence.”**

Evidence has shown medically supervised withdrawal is safer than an abstinence-only approach. MOUD reduces illicit opioid use and risk of overdose death, which allows individuals the ability to participate in treatment and sustain long-term recovery.

MOUD is an evidence-based, first-line treatment endorsed by the following entities:

- American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry
- American Medical Association
- The National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

## Myth 4:

**“There are dangerous side effects to MOUD.”**

As with any prescription medication, there is a potential risk for side effects. Use of other medications, alcohol or illicit substances can increase those risks. Medical professionals who provide MOUD will discuss medical conditions, side effects and risks before treatment begins.

## Myth 5:

**“MOUD is just a new way for doctors to prescribe more opioids.”**

To prescribe MOUD, medical professionals are required to complete specialized training and register through the DEA. Once approved, treatment programs must follow strict federal regulations for professionals to maintain their license.

## Myth 6:

**“MOUD medications are like liquid handcuffs.”**

Two of the drugs used to treat OUD — Buprenorphine and Naltrexone — can be taken orally in pill form or monthly by sustained-release injection. Taking these medications does not require a daily visit to an authorized clinic. If transportation is a barrier, providers can meet with individuals via telehealth.

Individuals who wish to engage in methadone treatment may contact the Opioid Treatment Program in South Dakota to discuss the guidelines and expectations of treatment at this facility.

