



Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) FAQ for Loved Ones



Overview

Q: What is an opioid?

A: Opioids are drugs related to opium, commonly used to treat pain; & can be habit-forming, leading some people to become dependent or develop Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Methadone & Buprenorphine are also opioids, but used to treat OUD as they help improve behaviors assoc. w/ OUD.

Q: Why are opioids used to treat OUD?

A: MOUD helps stabilize the brain of someone with OUD. This includes decreasing cravings & brain activity that leads to dangerous or unhealthy behaviors associated with addiction, & preventing overdose death. MOUD helps patients meet their goals & live full & satisfying lives.

Other FAQ

Q: What is the right dose of MOUD?

A: The right dose is the amount that allows the patient to feel & act normally; this can take days to weeks. The provider may ask loved ones to help measure symptoms incl. withdrawal or drowsiness, to timing & amount. Once the right dose is found, it is important for the patient to take it on time every day.

Q: How can loved ones support care?

A: MOUD are treatments & not a cure. The best way to help the patient is to encourage regular medical care, not skip or forget to take the medication, & support long-term use & follow-up care just as you would any other chronic disease such as diabetes. It is also important to provide encouragement.

Q: What does MOUD mean for loved ones?

A: Chronic conditions can be difficult for the patient & their loved ones.

MOUD can be successful if it is integrated w/ family support, community, & support for life changes.

Family counseling & support groups can help make treatment successful for all involved.

IN SUMMARY FOR LOVED ONES...

Support from loved ones can be very helpful for patients on MOUD. It helps if loved ones understand how OUD is a chronic disease & requires ongoing care, & how MOUD works. For more info, talk w/ your loved one's provider or reach out to addiction medicine specialists at cooperhealth.org/recovery or go.rowan.edu/nmi