

Get Tested. Get Treated. Get Cured.

HCV & Harm Reduction

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MEDICALLY ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)

Medically Assisted Treatment is the use of medications in combination with counseling and other behavioral therapies. It is the number one medically recommended way to treat opioid addiction. The drugs used to treat opioid addiction include methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. These medical drugs block the opioid receptors and prevent physical addiction and reduce cravings for opioids. The use of these medications helps normalize the body's response to opioids and remove the harmful effects. Research has shown that MAT is effective at improving survival, increasing retention in care, reducing illicit drug use and other criminal activities people engage in to get drugs. It also increases a person's ability to get and maintain employment. Many people misunderstand MAT and believe that it is "trading" one drug for another. This however it is not the case.

We don't tell someone with high cholesterol or diabetes to stop eating unhealthy food and then we will give them medicine. MAT is also used to treat alcohol addiction. Disulfiram, acamprosate, and naltrexone are the most common drugs to treat alcohol addiction.

Remember:

- Medically Assisted Treatment is the number one way to treat addiction.
- It is a comprehensive approach to treating opioid and alcohol addiction through counseling and behavior change.
- MAT is shown to reduce physical dependence, save lives and increase retention in treatment.
- MAT is NOT trading one drug for another.

learn more by visiting www.hcvadvocate.org

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