
Health Experiences Catalyst Films: Medication for Opioid Use Disorder



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Use of the Toolkit



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Background

Millions of people in the US live with opioid use disorder (OUD).¹ This chronic health crisis, deemed a public health emergency in 2017, has been increasing in prevalence in the US for the past several decades. OUD has become the leading cause of injury-related death, with a new record of 110,236 reported deaths in 2022.² The COVID-19 pandemic further increased opioid overdose deaths, which have been disproportionately distributed in low-income, urban neighborhoods and among people of color.³ Since many opioid users experience relapses, OUD recovery can be a fragmented process often characterized by a series of cyclical treatment episodes.

Although effective medications exist to treat OUD – including methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone – many of these treatments remain underutilized with only 13.4% of those living with OUD reporting ever receiving treatment.⁴ Access has worsened during the COVID-19 pandemic.⁵

Integrating medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) into primary care is one approach to expanding access to treatment and several innovative models of care have been developed.⁶ However, there are numerous barriers to widespread implementation, including insurance issues, persistent stigma associated with MOUD, issues with patient access, and inadequate physician training.⁷ Overcoming misunderstandings and other barriers that prevent wider adoption of MOUD is critical in increasing access to and sustainment of evidence-based OUD treatment.

Who should use this toolkit?

This toolkit is intended to be used by clinicians and clinical teams, including primary care and addiction medicine specialties. The content may also be of interest to patients and families who have lived experience with MOUD, those considering MOUD, researchers and research teams, as well as health care and community-based program and service providers involved in starting or sustaining MOUD programs.

What does the toolkit contain?

This toolkit contains the following:

1. **Catalyst film:** Health Experiences Catalyst Films are short films that summarize key findings from interviews with people discussing their experiences with health and health care. This catalyst film is about peoples' experiences of MOUD. The film can help *clinicians and researchers* develop and deliver more effective MOUD programs.
2. **Facilitation guide:** The toolkit contains facilitation materials including a draft agenda for an educational session with clinicians using the catalyst film.
3. **Stigmatizing language handout:** This toolkit includes a resource developed by Wisconsin Voices for Recovery about alternatives to stigmatizing language.

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4. **Directory of recovery housing:** We offer a directory of resources in WI for recovery housing.

Sample learning objectives for sites conducting these sessions with CME credit may include:

At the end of this session participants will be able to:

- Describe people's experiences in learning about, deciding about, initiating, and being on MOUD.
- Compare and contrast people's variable experiences with MOUD.
- Integrate variable recommendations from people with lived experience of opioid use and MOUD to inform care.
- Assess current workflows and practice, including communication, to identify potential improvements to MOUD access, patient experiences, and confronting stigma.

How should these tools be used?

This film and toolkit are intended to increase understanding of and empathy for those who use or have used opioids by summarizing their experiences with seeking MOUD, being on MOUD, and using other forms of treatment. Interactions with and messages for clinicians and clinic staff are another focus.

More specifically, the materials in this toolkit can be used to:

1. Inform primary care and addiction medicine clinicians and care teams about dimensions of peoples' diverse experiences with MOUD and other treatments that may not always be readily apparent in clinical settings.
2. Develop or hone empathic support for people who have experience with using opioids
3. Spark conversations about enhancing or changing certain clinical practices, including protocols for accessing and initiating MOUD in primary care and specialty settings.
4. Guide development or improvement of shared decision-making approaches and patient-centered care planning.
5. Garner support for further investment in MOUD and other forms of treatment.

Development

The Catalyst Film about Health Experiences: Medication for Opioid Use Disorder was developed by researchers (Principal Investigator: Jane Evered) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison Department of Family Medicine and Community Health, located within the School of Medicine & Public Health. Creation of the catalyst film was funded by the Department of Family Medicine and Community Health Small Grant.

Catalyst Film

This catalyst film is part of a larger project funded by the University of Wisconsin-Madison Institute for Clinical and Translational Research through a grant from the Wisconsin Partnership Program (1UL1TR002373) and the Oregon Clinical & Translational Research Institute (OCTRI)

NIH National Center for Advancing Translational Sciences (UL1TR002369) award. Researchers from OCTRI and UW conducted 38 interviews with people who have experience using opioids and MOUD across the United States.

Production of the catalyst film included engagement with and input from action researchers at the [Qualitative and Health Experiences Research Lab](#) at UW-Madison, people who have lived experience using opioids or MOUD, members of the [Program for Research, Outreach, Therapeutics, and Education in the Addictions Lab](#), [Wisconsin Voices for Recovery](#), the [Health Experiences Research Network](#), researchers at Oregon Health & Sciences University, and [OCHIN](#).⁸ The [filmmaker](#) added animations to audio clips and narration to the text clips.

The methodology used to develop this catalyst film is further described in the [Health Experiences Catalyst Films Guidebook Toolkit](#) available.

The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not necessarily represent the official views of any of the funders.

Toolkit

The Catalyst Film about Health Experiences: Medication for Opioid Use Disorder toolkit was developed with insights and resources from people with lived experience using MOUD, members of the [Program for Research, Outreach, Therapeutics, and Education in the Addictions Lab](#), [Wisconsin Voices for Recovery](#), the [Health Experiences Research Network](#), researchers at Oregon Health & Sciences University, and [OCHIN](#).

Please send questions, comments and suggestions to qherlab@fammed.wisc.edu.

View Suggestions

The catalyst film can be viewed in its entirety or in sections. In the sample facilitation guide, there is a recommended list of sections for clinical audiences, as identified by our advisors (people with lived experience of opioid use and MOUD, clinicians, leaders in community organizations).

The film includes the following sections:

- Other forms of Treatment
- Learning and Deciding about MOUD
- Starting MOUD
- Being on MOUD
- Long-Term MOUD
- Interactions with Clinicians
- Stigma & Perceptions
- Messages for Health Systems and Community Services
- Messages to Clinicians

For a 60-minute meeting we recommend watching this combination of sections:

- Intro
- Interactions with Clinicians
- Stigma & Perceptions
- Messages for Health Systems and Community Services
- Messages to Clinicians
- Credits

For a 90-minute meeting, we recommend watching this combination of sections with a pause in between:

- Intro
- Learning and Deciding about MOUD
- Being on MOUD
 - How MOUD feels
 - Accessing MOUD
 - Changing MOUD

[Pause for reflections]

- Interactions with Clinicians
- Stigma & Perceptions
- Messages for Health Systems and Community Services
- Messages to Clinicians
- Credits

Facilitator Guide and Reflection Worksheet

We include a facilitator guide for viewing and discussing the film with clinicians in a 60-minute session. A facilitated group viewing is recommended when the film is being used to enhance team-based care and/or clinical quality improvement.

Although the guide offers instructions for virtual engagement including the use of recording and chat functions, the overall content of the guide can be easily adapted for in-person sessions. We also offer a reflection worksheet for session attendees with questions that can be discussed in small groups or a large group during the session.

We recommend at least three research team members be present for the session – one facilitator, one back-up facilitator, and (if virtual) one team member to manage the recording if applicable, chat, and troubleshoot any technical issues.

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