Substance Use Disorder and Pharmacy

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Where can I find a pharmacist?

- Community pharmacies
- Hospitals
- Community-based clinics
- Federal Government
 - Department of Veterans Affairs
 - US Public Health Service
- Academia-University
- ◆ Managed Care
- Research



Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

- ◆ Pharmacotherapy to prevent relapse
- ◆ Naltrexone (oral, long acting injection)
- Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)
 - Methadone
 - Buprenorphine/Naloxone







Barriers to MAT

- Limited treatment locations
 - Bias within neighborhoods
 - Limited prescribers: regulations or administration requirements
- Stigma in abstinence based programs (AA/NA)
- ◆ Difficulty in obtaining medication
 - Pharmacy may not carry routinely
- SUD not routinely recognized as chronic disease
 - Medication duration may vary

Overcoming Stigma



- Establish routine care with medical providers and pharmacy
- ◆ Treat using disease model
 - Relapse can be indicative of ↑ treatment needs
- Understand SUD can be chronic and MAT duration is patient specific
- Treat holistically
 - underlying comorbid disorders (psychiatric, medical)