

# TIP 63: MEDICATIONS FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER

The goal of treatment for opioid addiction or opioid use disorder (OUD) is remission of the disorder leading to lasting recovery. Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential.

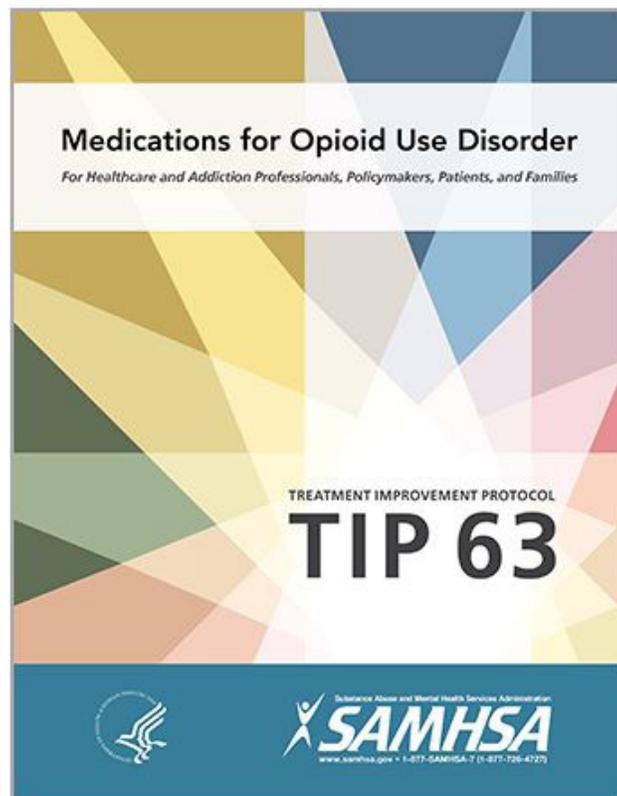
This Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) reviews the use of the three Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications used to treat OUD—methadone, naltrexone, and buprenorphine—and the other strategies and services needed to support recovery for people with opioid use disorder (OUD).

## TIP 63 AT-A-GLANCE

- ▶ **Part 1: Introduction to Medications for OUD Treatment**  
Lays the groundwork for understanding treatment concepts discussed later in this TIP.
- ▶ **Part 2: Addressing OUD in General Medical Settings**  
Offers guidance on OUD screening, assessment, treatment, and referral.
- ▶ **Part 3: Pharmacotherapy of OUD**  
This part offers information and tools for healthcare professionals who prescribe, administer, or dispense OUD medications or treat other illnesses in patients who take these medications. It provides guidance on the use of buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone by healthcare professionals.
- ▶ **Part 4: Partnering Addiction Treatment with Clients and Healthcare**  
This part recommends ways that addiction treatment counselors can collaborate with healthcare professionals to support client-centered, trauma-informed OUD treatment and recovery. It also serves as a guide to medications that can treat OUD and presents strategies for communication with prescribers, creation of supportive environments for clients who take OUD medication, and ways to address other common counseling concerns.
- ▶ **Part 5: Resources Related to Medications for OUD**  
This part has a glossary and audience-segmented resource lists to help medical and behavioral health service providers better understand how to use OUD medications with their patients and to help patients better understand how OUD medications work.

## ORDER ONLINE

TIP 63 is available at [store.samhsa.gov](https://store.samhsa.gov). Enter **SMA19-5063FULLDOC** into the search at the top of the Publications and Digital Products homepage. Component sections of the full TIP 63 document are also available separately and may be ordered from the TIP 63 product page.



## TIP 63 KEY MESSAGES

- ▶ Addiction is a chronic, treatable illness
- ▶ General principles of good care for chronic diseases can guide OUD treatment
- ▶ Patient-centered care empowers patients and helps them make better treatment decisions
- ▶ Patients with OUD should have access to mental health, medical and addiction counseling, and recovery support services, to supplement treatment with medication
- ▶ The science demonstrating the effectiveness of medication for OUD is strong
- ▶ Medication for OUD should be successfully integrated with outpatient and residential treatment
- ▶ Patients treated with medications for OUD can benefit from individualized psychosocial supports
- ▶ Expanding access to OUD medications is an important public health strategy
- ▶ Improving access to treatment with OUD medications is crucial, given the strong evidence of effectiveness for such treatments
- ▶ Data indicates that medications for OUD are cost effective and cost beneficial

## TIP 61: BEHAVIORAL HEALTH SERVICES FOR AMERICAN INDIANS AND ALASKA NATIVES

TIP 61 provides behavioral health professionals with practical guidance about Native American history, historical trauma, and critical cultural perspectives in their work with American Indian and Alaska Native clients.  
<http://bit.ly/SMA18-5070>  
ID: SMA18-5070

## OPIOID OVERDOSE PREVENTION TOOLKIT

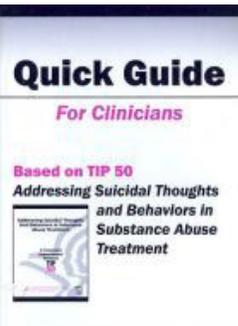
This toolkit offers strategies to health care providers, communities, and local governments for developing practices and policies to help prevent opioid-related overdoses and deaths.  
<http://bit.ly/SMA18-4742>  
ID: SMA18-4742

## SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE QUICK GUIDE FOR CLINICIANS

This guide serves as a reference for substance use treatment practitioners. It offers “how to” information divided into sections.  
<http://bit.ly/SMA15-3583>  
ID: SMA15-3583

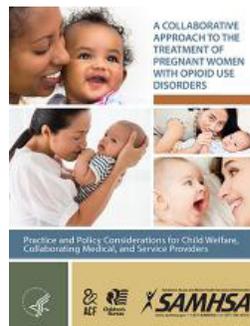
## SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FOR PERSONS WITH CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT ISSUES; KAP KEYS FOR CLINICIANS BASED ON TIP 36

This guide provides strategies for clinicians who provide substance use disorder treatment to people who have experienced child abuse and child neglect.  
<http://bit.ly/SMA15-3605>  
ID: SMA15-3605



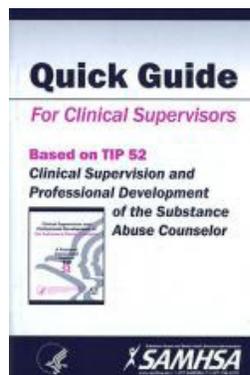
## ADDRESSING SUICIDAL THOUGHTS AND BEHAVIORS IN SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT: QUICK GUIDE FOR CLINICIANS BASED ON TIP 50

This quick guide helps clinicians and other service providers address suicide and suicide prevention in patients living with substance use disorders.  
<http://bit.ly/SMA13-4793>  
ID: SMA13-4793



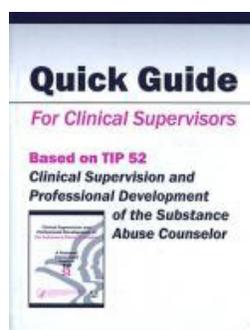
## A COLLABORATIVE APPROACH TO THE TREATMENT OF PREGNANT WOMEN WITH OPIOID USE DISORDERS

This manual offers best practices to states, tribes, and local communities on collaborative treatment approaches for pregnant women living with opioid use disorders, and the risks and benefits associated with medication-assisted treatment.  
<http://bit.ly/SMA16-4978>  
ID: SMA16-4978



## CLINICAL SUPERVISION AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE SUBSTANCE ABUSE COUNSELOR; QUICK GUIDE FOR CLINICAL SUPERVISORS BASED ON TIP 52

This guide offers tips for clinical supervisors in the substance use disorder treatment field.  
<http://bit.ly/SMA13-4770>  
ID: SMA13-4770



## BRIEF INTERVENTIONS AND THERAPIES FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE KAP KEYS FOR CLINICIANS BASED ON TIP 34

This manual lists examples of brief intervention and brief treatment for alcohol and drug misuse. It offers criteria for providing brief therapy and longer-term treatment.  
<http://bit.ly/SMA15-3601>  
ID: SMA15-3601

Find opioid and substance abuse treatment or mental health treatment facilities and programs.  
[samhsa.gov/find-treatment](http://samhsa.gov/find-treatment)

Get treatment referrals & other information at this free, confidential helpline, available 24/7, 365 days a year  
**1-800-662-HELP (4357)**  
[samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline](http://samhsa.gov/find-help/national-helpline)