Medication Assisted Treatment in Correctional Settings

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is the evidence-based use of medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders. Evidence states that the addition of MAT for the treatment of justice-involved individuals not only increases the likelihood of successful treatment but reduces recidivism.

Increased retention in treatment
Decreased or eliminate illicit opioid use
Reduced recidivism
Decreased hepatitis and HIV infections
Decreased criminal activities
Increased employment
Fewer overdose deaths

General Expectations after Initiating MAT

Comprehensive MAT Programs
Increase MAT to the most vulnerable and at risk populations
Combine MAT with counseling and critical case management follow up
Utilize health insurance as a re-entry tool to improve access to and continuity of health care
Track performance measures to determine program success

Program Participant Referrals
Self referrals from inmates/delinquents (self motivation is key)
Attorneys and family members
Drug Court candidates

FDA Approved Medications
1. Naltrexone
2. Methadone
3. Buprenorphine

Naltrexone blocks the effects of opioid, which makes it a good choice for preventing relapse.
Methadone and Buprenorphine trick the brain into thinking it’s still getting the pleasure of opioids.

MAT: 4 Steps
1. Induction: Assessment, individualized dosages, high risk for overdose
2. Stabilization: Adjustment to medication, withdrawal and cravings begin to recede
3. Maintenance: Long-term, periodic reassessment
4. Tapering: Medically managed withdrawal

Status of Persons with Opioid Use Disorder Within 3 Months of Release of Incarceration

Resources:
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment

"Promising Practice Guidelines for Medication Assisted Treatment for Justice-Involved Populations," a collaborative document led by Advocates for Human Potential, Inc., with funding from the National Institute of Corrections, is expected to be released soon and will be found at www.sheriffs.org

For more information, including being connected to direct technical assistance through the National Institute of Corrections, please contact Jessica Vanderpool at jessica@sheriffs.org or 703-658-5305