



Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD):

Myths



MYTHS

- MOUD simply replaces one addiction with another
- MOUD is a one-size-fits-all solution
- MOUD is only suitable for those who are unable to resist temptation
- MOUD is a danger to an individual's recovery journey
- MOUD is a temporary or short-term solution, and it undermines long-term recovery
- MOUD is not real recovery, and people who use MOUD aren't ready or serious about changing
- MOUD is drug-seeking behavior
- Abstinence-based treatment is more effective than MOUD and is always the starting point for anyone seeking help
- People should fail abstinence-based treatments before trying MOUD
- People who buy and sell MOUD without a prescription are using it to get "high"
- MOUD is harmful to a fetus or infant and should not be prescribed to pregnant mothers
- MOUD is not appropriate for adolescents





Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD):

Facts



FACTS

- MOUD counteracts and reverses brain changes linked to addiction¹
- MOUD reduces infectious diseases^{2,3,4}
- MOUD reduces overdose-related deaths^{2,3}
- MOUD reduces criminal behavior^{2,3,4}
- MOUD reduces/eliminates opioid cravings and withdrawal^{2,4,5}
- MOUD normalizes hormonal disruptions in the brain, promoting stability¹
- MOUD amplifies the effectiveness of behavioral therapies¹
- MOUD decreases illicit opioid use^{2,3}
- Most people who use MOUD without a prescription do so to avoid withdrawal or stop using other opioids^{6,7}
- Buprenorphine and methadone are safe for pregnant women and breastfeeding mothers; the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists recommends MOUD for pregnant women with OUD⁸
- MOUD is effective treatment for adolescents with OUD and is recommended by the American College of Pediatrics and the American Association of Adolescent Medicine⁹

References: For a full list of references and citations used to inform this resource, please visit: https://case.edu/socialwork/centerforebp/sites/default/files/2025-03/SUD-COE_Myth-vs-Facts-Card-References.pdf

