



Take Action to Expand Access to Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

There are an estimated 2.5 million Americans with opioid use disorder yet [only 11.2% received medication treatment in 2020](#). Methadone, a synthetic, long-lasting opioid agonist, is a gold standard medical treatment for OUD. Methadone is the [most well-studied pharmacotherapy](#) for OUD, with the longest track record. Methadone is [safe and effective](#) for patients when indicated, dispensed, and consumed properly. However, there are [fewer than 1,816 programs](#) providing methadone to approximately 409,000 Americans.

Remove Access Barriers to Methadone

During the COVID pandemic, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) [allowed for take-home methadone doses](#) for OUD from opioid treatment programs (OTPs). Research on the methadone COVID flexibilities showed no evidence of increased methadone [overdose](#) or [diversion](#). Responsibly expanding access to methadone treatment for OUD in medical settings and areas [where it is not available now](#) is critical to saving lives, helping families, and strengthening our communities. Further, expanding access to methadone outside of OTPs will help decrease stigma people experience in seeking treatment by integrating it into the health care system.

Support Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act (MOTAA) ([H.R. 1359/S.644](#))

The Modernizing Opioid Treatment Access Act

- Creates a legal mechanism for addiction specialist physicians to prescribe methadone for OUD treatment that can be picked up at pharmacies.
- Requires the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) to create a new registration process for such prescribers of methadone.
- Fix the contradictory policy that addiction physicians can prescribe and pharmacies can dispense methadone for pain but cannot for OUD and thus decriminalize methadone prescribing for OUD.
- Establishes additional federal safeguards for such prescribers.
- Allows for the use of telehealth support for counseling and other ancillary services.

About the American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists

The [American Association of Psychiatric Pharmacists](#) (AAPP) is a professional association representing nearly 3,000 psychiatric pharmacists nationwide. They are specialty pharmacists, and most are Board Certified Psychiatric Pharmacists (BCPPs) who specialize in psychiatry, substance use disorders (SUDs), and psychopharmacology. Psychiatric pharmacists have deep understanding of medications for OUD as well as the commonly co-occurring psychiatric illnesses. Our members integrate into teams of health care professionals, making a difference in overall costs, treatment efficiencies, patient recovery, and quality of life.

8055 O Street, Ste S113 ■ Lincoln, NE 68510
www.aapp.org ■ info@aapp.org
402-476-1677 (phone)