



# THE SUPREME COURT *of* OHIO

## PRINCIPLES FOR THE USE OF MEDICATION FOR ADDICTION TREATMENT (MAT) IN COMMUNITY CONTROL, PROBATION, AND SUPERVISION

1. Probation or Community Control Officers are in a unique position to motivate and support recovery among individuals with an opioid use disorder who are on probation or community control.
  - a. Individuals, families, and communities benefit from reduced recidivism rates, increased public safety, and more efficient and coordinated use of resources that accompany a collaborative approach with treatment providers and courts to long-term recovery without jeopardizing accountability.
  - b. Community partnerships with treatment providers are important vehicles to coordinate efforts of the medical, behavioral health, social service, and criminal justice systems to achieve shared goals.
2. Probation or Community Control Officers and treatment providers should engage in ongoing education to ensure a common understanding of the evolving research and literature and commit to using best practices.
  - a. Cross-systems training will ensure all stakeholders have a current, complete, and shared understanding of core concepts such as the science of substance use disorders and MAT, behavioral health practices, evidence-based decision making, and court processes.
  - b. Known risk factors for relapse, recidivism, overdose, and other barriers to recovery should be reflected in probation or community control practices.
3. Probation or Community Control Officers should recognize any of the medications approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) for treatment of an opioid use disorder as appropriate for use with justice-involved adults if prescribed for an individual by a qualified medical provider and administered in conjunction with behavioral health treatment.
  - a. Reduction in relapse rates is significantly improved with the inclusion of FDA-approved medications for opioid use disorders.
  - b. Medication should be used in conjunction with a comprehensive treatment plan that includes quality behavioral health services.
  - c. While each specific medication is effective for the treatment of opioid use disorders, like with any disease or condition, individuals respond differently to any particular treatment strategy.
4. Probation or Community Control Officers should refer offenders for a medical exam to consider whether MAT is appropriate and should monitor and enforce compliance with the full treatment plan.
  - a. Offenders who present with confirmed or suspected opioid use should be referred to a properly licensed medical professional for a complete, in person assessment.
  - b. Probation or Community Control requirements and expectations, including violations, should take into account whether the desired behavior is a proximal or distal goal for each stage of their recovery.
  - c. Seeking reassessments from treatment professionals is necessary and any adjustments to the medical and behavioral treatment plans that are indicated should be included in the supervision plan.

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## Principles for the Use of Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) in Community Control, Probation, and Supervision

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5. **Probation or Community Control Officers should rely on medical providers and offenders to present well-informed medical treatment plans to the court, which may include MAT.**
  - a. Providers should address opioid use disorders as a chronic relapsing disease of the brain and adhere to current and emerging evidence-based practices.
  - b. Any plans involving MAT should take an individualized approach to medication choice, delivery method, dosage, and length of treatment.
  - c. Probation or Community Control Departments should establish a process for identifying and working with qualified providers that prescribe appropriate medication as medically indicated for each participant.
6. **When addressing probation or community control violations, Probation or Community Control Officers should consider how the potential collateral consequences of any sanction or violation may disrupt recovery.**
  - a. Violations or supervision interventions should be implemented in a manner that minimize the unintended termination of medication, behavioral health treatment, health insurance, employment, and other resources needed to support long-term recovery.
  - b. When using confinement as a sanction, it may be necessary to consult with the participant's medical treatment provider in advance to ensure continuity of effective medical care within institutional formularies and other limitations.
  - c. Special populations, such as pregnant women, warrant additional considerations.
7. **Probation or Community Control Officers should approach recovery as an ongoing process that may be initiated with the Probation or Community Control's intervention but is ultimately supported and sustained in the community.**
  - a. Probation or Community Control should connect participants to recovery-oriented systems of care upon entry into the program.
  - b. Throughout the process, Probation or Community Control should build a participant's capacity to engage with community-based services and supports that will sustain recovery beyond program commencement.
  - c. Probation or Community Control Officers should assist or obtain from offenders post-supervision treatment and/or support plans prior to their exit from probation or community control.

