



# Opioid Stewardship and Managing the Opioid Crisis: A Health-Care Perspective

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Dr. Holden has disclosed that there is no actual or potential conflict of interest in regards to this presentation

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# Opioid Use Disorder Diagnosis and Treatment

# Learning Objectives

At the conclusion of this course participants will be able to

- Describe local opioid prescribing, hospitalization and overdose trends in Chicago.
- Explain the neurobiological changes that occur in the brain of someone with opioid use disorder.
- Describe the current opioid prescribing guidelines for acute and chronic pain, as well as recommendations for non-pharmacological management of chronic pain.
- Explain the DSM 5 diagnostic criteria for opioid use disorder and the available treatment options for opioid use disorder.
- Define harm reduction and explain its role in working with patients who use drugs.
- Describe health-system level interventions that can be taken to promote best practices as they relate to opioid prescribing and opioid use disorder treatment.
- Describe new formulations for treatment of OUD overdose, and abuse-deterrent formulations and their effect on potential for misuse.
- Discuss challenging clinical cases with group of health professionals and identify potential approaches to clinical management.

# To obtain credit you must:

- **Be present for the entire session**
- **Complete an evaluation form**
- **Return the evaluation form to staff**
- Certificate will be sent to you by e-mail upon request.

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# ***In Addiction, Powerful Changes Occur in the Brain***

## **REWARD SYSTEM**

- Drive-pleasure pathways hijacked (food, water, sex, exercise, etc.)
- Diminished pleasure/reward in non-drug behaviors
- Experience strong cravings, urges to use drugs

## **STRESS SYSTEM**

- After too much reward anti-reward system turns on
- Irritability, depression, distress
- Perceive only relief through substance use

## **DECISION-MAKING SYSTEM**

- Impulsive/struggle to resist urges (brakes damaged)
- Difficulty making plans and following through (steering damaged)

*(Difficult to change habituated behaviors under the best of circumstances)*

# How Do You Diagnose An Opioid Use Disorder?

## The C's of Addiction

Loss of **C**ontrol

Continued use in spite of **C**onsequences

**C**raving/ **C**ompulsion

# How Do You Diagnose An Opioid Use Disorder?

- **DSM-V Criteria**

- **More/longer than intended**
- **Unable to cut back/control**
- **Time dedicated to obtaining, using, recovering from**
- **Physical or psychological consequences**
- **Activities given up**
- **Failure to fulfill major obligations**
- **Social or interpersonal problems caused or made worse by**
- **Use in hazardous situations**
- **Craving/strong desire/urge**
- **Tolerance** (unless taken solely under appropriate medical supervision)
- **Withdrawal** (unless taken solely under appropriate medical supervision)

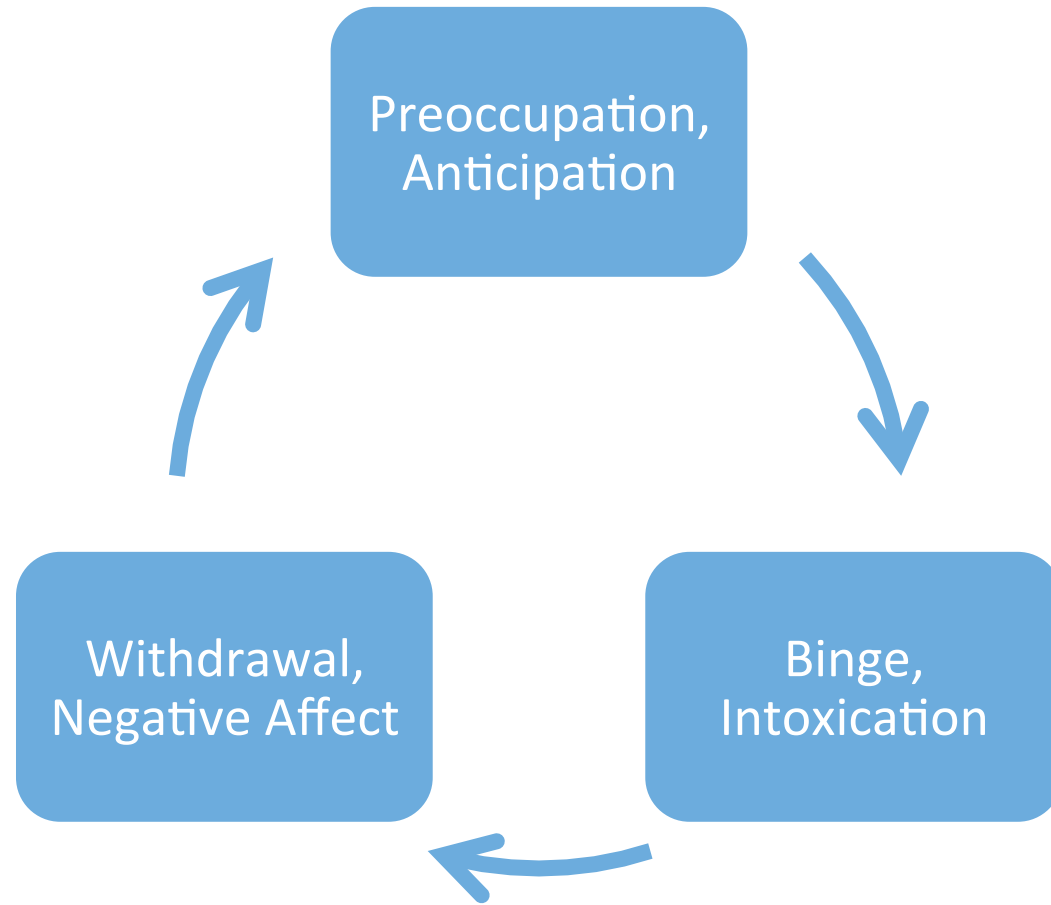
## Severity

- Mild: 2-3 symptoms
- Moderate: 4-5 symptoms
- Severe: 6+ symptoms

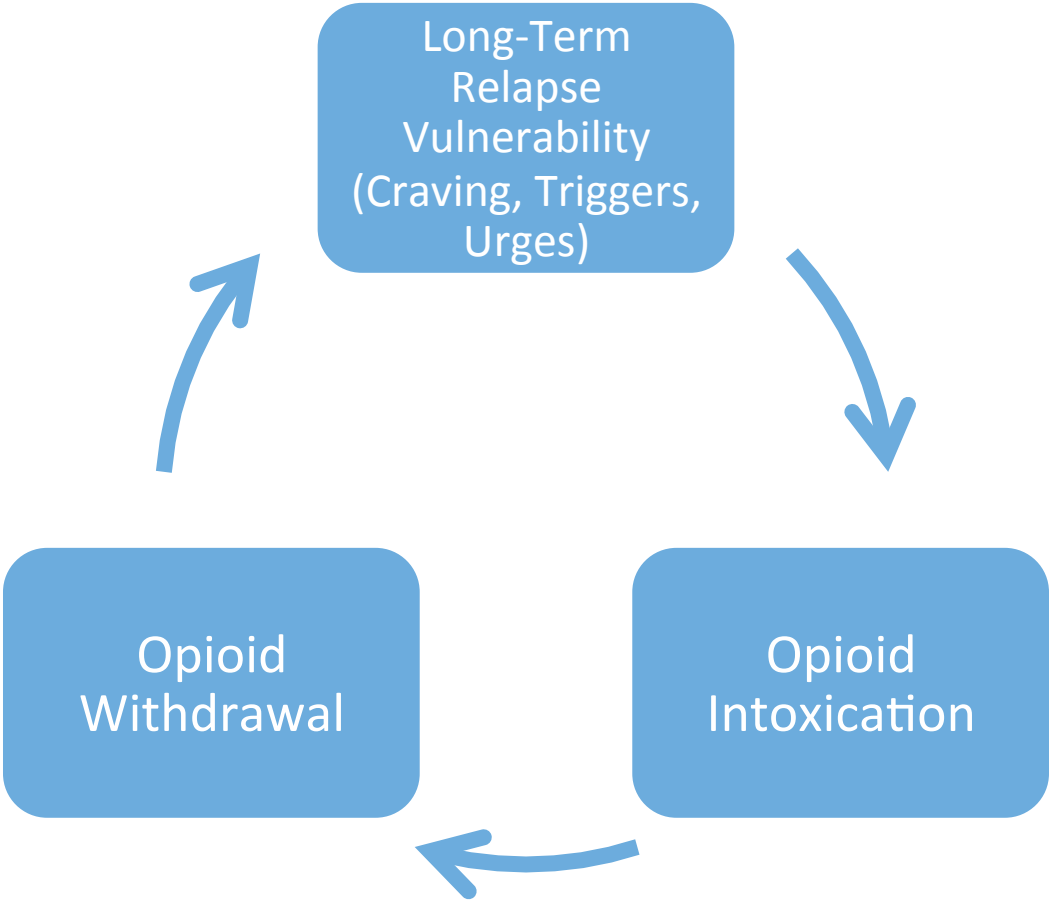
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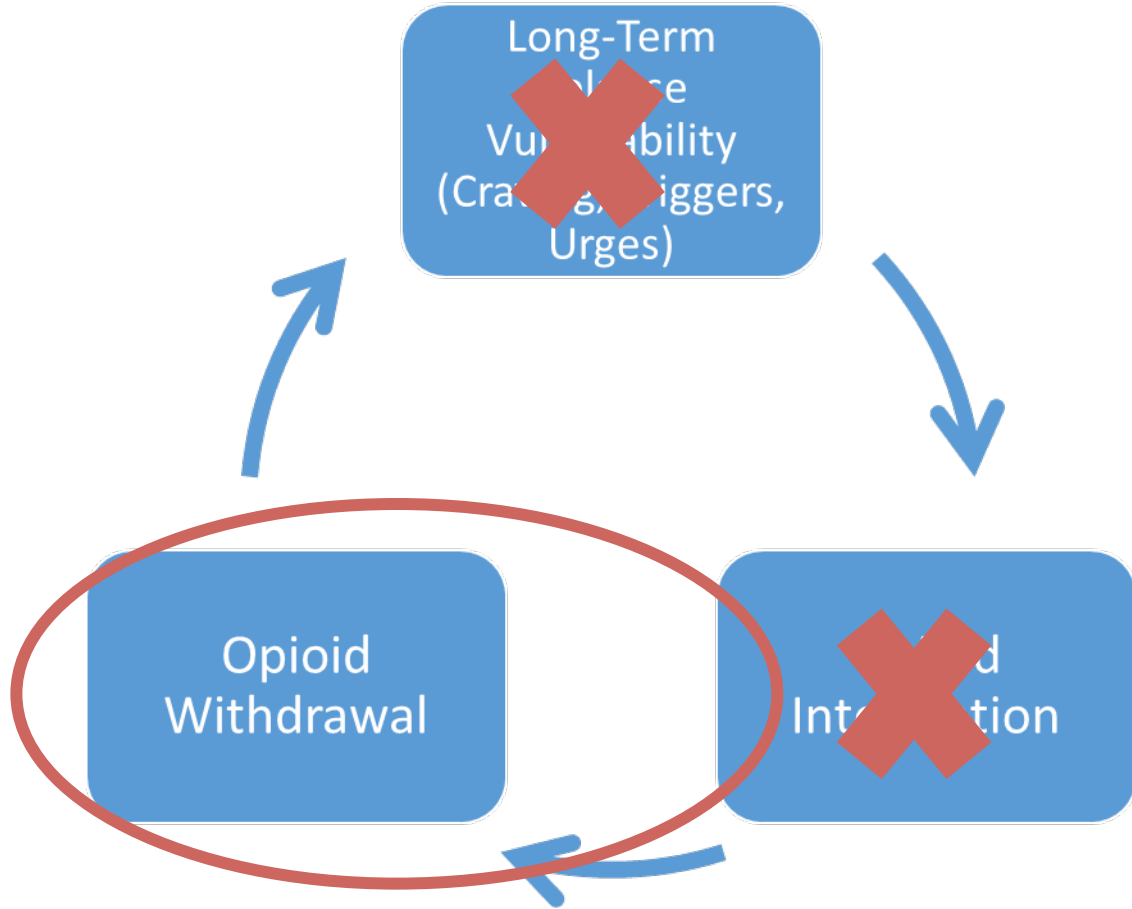
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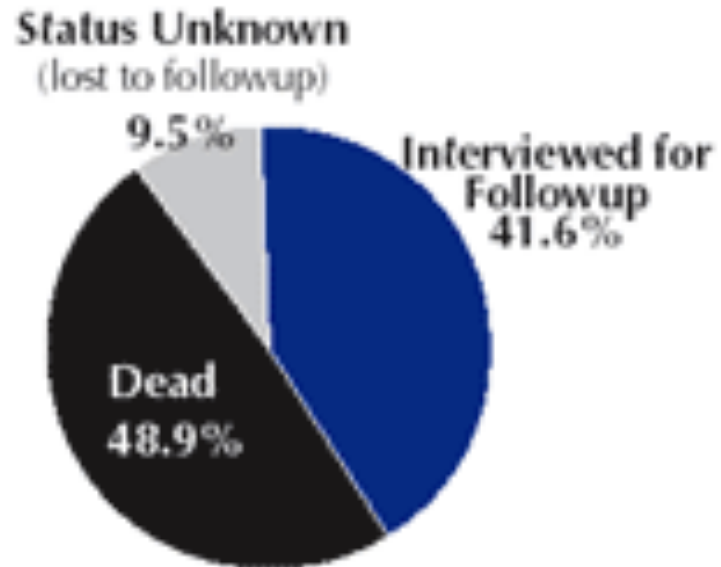


# Detox is NOT Sufficient Treatment



- Unlikely to lead to sustained recovery on its own
- Return to use within 1 week, 1 month very high
- Can increase the risk of overdose
- Either avoid or view as PRE-treatment

# SEVERE, CHRONIC, RECURRENT DISEASE



Of 581 heroin addicts admitted to compulsory drug treatment between 1962 and 1964, nearly half had died by 1997.

- Longitudinal Study of Heroin Addicted Individuals
  - Death rate 50-100 times rate of non-addicted cohort
  - Of survivors, less than half achieved 5+ years of abstinence at any point
  - Subset with 15 years of abstinence: 25% relapsed in next 10 years

# How to Treat a Chronic, Recurrent, Severe Disease?

- Prevention
- Early intervention
- Treatment
  - Different types
  - Different settings
  - Different intensities
- Long-term
- Requirements change over time

# What Does Treatment Look Like?

- Different “levels” of care
  - Based on severity of disease and psychosocial situation
  - Can vary from one hour per week to intensive inpatient programs
- Medication for opioid use disorder should be available, offered, and encouraged as a general rule

AT A GLANCE: THE SIX DIMENSIONS OF MULTIDIMENSIONAL ASSESSMENT		
ASAM's criteria uses six dimensions to create a holistic, biopsychosocial assessment of an individual to be used for service planning and treatment across all services and levels of care. The six dimensions are:		
1	DIMENSION 1	<b>Acute Intoxication and/or Withdrawal Potential</b> Exploring an individual's past and current experiences of substance use and withdrawal
2	DIMENSION 2	<b>Biomedical Conditions and Complications</b> Exploring an individual's health history and current physical condition
3	DIMENSION 3	<b>Emotional, Behavioral, or Cognitive Conditions and Complications</b> Exploring an individual's thoughts, emotions, and mental health issues
4	DIMENSION 4	<b>Readiness to Change</b> Exploring an individual's readiness and interest in changing
5	DIMENSION 5	<b>Relapse, Continued Use, or Continued Problem Potential</b> Exploring an individual's unique relationship with relapse or continued use or problems
6	DIMENSION 6	<b>Recovery/Living Environment</b> Exploring an individual's recovery or living situation, and the surrounding people, places, and things

Source: ASAM Website

# Examples



# MAT: Medication Assisted Treatment

- Methadone
- Buprenorphine (Suboxone<sup>®</sup>, Subutex<sup>®</sup>, Bunavail<sup>®</sup>, Zubsolve<sup>®</sup>, and Probuphine<sup>®</sup> Implant)
- Long-Acting Injectable Naltrexone (Vivitrol<sup>®</sup>)

# Methadone

- Synthetic opioid
- $\mu$ -opioid receptor full agonist
- Long half-life
- 1960's: clinical trials for addiction
- Restricted to federally-licensed Methadone Maintenance Treatment Programs (MMTP)
  - Does not apply to analgesic prescribing





Long-Term  
Relapse  
Vulnerability  
(Craving, Triggers,  
Urges)



Opioid  
Withdrawal

Opioid  
Intoxication



- Withdrawal suppression
- Decreased craving
- Reduced euphoric effects of additional opioids

# Buprenorphine

- Partial  $\mu$  opioid receptor agonist
  - Better safety profile
  - Some full agonist effects
- High binding affinity to opioid receptor
- Long half-life
- 1990's: emerging evidence as treatment for OUD
- 2002: FDA approved for OUD treatment
  - Can be prescribed in outpatient settings with DATA waiver (Primary care, etc)
- Waivered NPs and PAs can now prescribe



Long-Term  
Relapse  
Vulnerability  
(Craving, Triggers,  
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- Withdrawal suppression
- Decreased craving
- Reduced euphoric effects of additional opioids

Opioid  
Withdrawal

Opioid  
Intoxication



# Naltrexone

- High affinity  $\mu$  opioid receptor antagonist
- Long half-life
- 1984: FDA approved oral formulation for opioid dependence
  - Adherence major issue
- Depot preparation (Vivitrol<sup>®</sup>)
  - 2010: FDA approved for opioid dependence (2006 for alcohol dependence)
  - Much less well-studied than methadone and buprenorphine (and very little head-to-head comparisons), but current evidence is promising

Long-Term  
Relapse  
Vulnerability  
(Craving, Triggers,  
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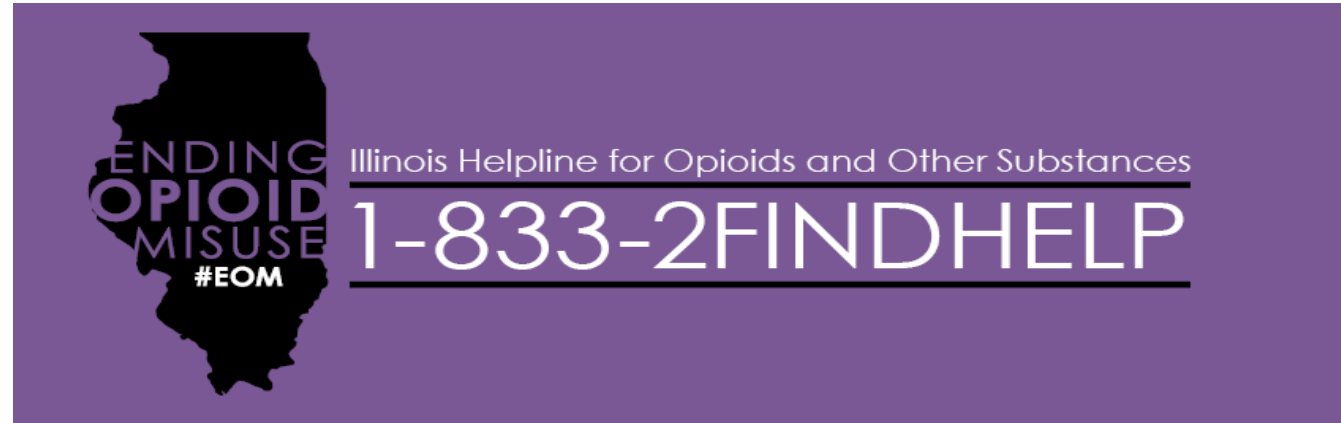
- Does not suppress withdrawal symptoms (and can worsen if started too soon)
- Decreased craving
- Reduced euphoric effects of additional opioids

# Benefits of MAT

- Evidence is best established for agonist treatment
- High treatment retention
- Reduction in illicit drug use
- Improvement in physical health
  - Increase in length of life
  - Reduction in overdose deaths
  - Reduction in HIV, Hepatitis B, and Hepatitis C infection
- Improved psychiatric well-being
- Improvement in vocational functioning
- Improvement in legal functioning (e.g. less crime)
- Improved familial functioning

# How Long is MAT Needed?

- Duration is critical factor
  - Most patients stay on MAT for less than a year
  - Substantial and sustained changes in social, vocational, etc. functioning can take years
- Risk of relapse after discontinuation very high even after substantial change
- Individualized approach needed
- Society, families, friends, physicians, patients themselves often view MAT in negative, stigmatized way (e.g. as a “crutch”)- important for providers to be counterbalancing force
- Many patients benefit from lifetime treatment



Newly launched state help line

<https://overcomeopioids.org/>

CDPH website that explains OUD treatment options in lay terms