

CADTH Reference List

Opioid Agonist Therapies for Adults With Opioid Dependence in Correctional Settings

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Key Message

No evidence-based guidelines about the use of opioid agonist therapies for adults with opioid dependence in correctional settings were identified.

Research Question

What are the evidence-based guidelines about the use of opioid agonist therapies for adults with opioid dependence in correctional settings?

Methods

Literature Search Methods

A limited literature search was conducted by an information specialist on key resources including MEDLINE via Ovid, PsycInfo via Ovid, the Cochrane Database of Systematic Reviews, the International HTA Database, the websites of Canadian and major international health technology agencies, as well as a focused internet search. The search strategy comprised both controlled vocabulary, such as the National Library of Medicine’s MeSH (Medical Subject Headings), and keywords. The main search concepts were opioid agonist therapies and correctional settings. CADTH-developed search filters were applied to limit retrieval to guidelines. The search was completed on May 12, 2022, and limited to English-language documents published since January 1, 2017. Internet links were provided, where available.

Selection Criteria

One reviewer screened literature search results (titles and abstracts) and selected publications according to the inclusion criteria presented in [Table 1](#). Full texts of study publications were not reviewed. Open access full-text versions of evidence-based guidelines were reviewed when available.

Table 1: Selection Criteria

Criteria	Description
Population	Adults with opioid dependence in correctional settings
Intervention	Opioid agonist therapies (e.g., methadone, buprenorphine or buprenorphine-naloxone, slow-release oral morphine, injectable opioid agonist therapy [i.e., diacetylmorphine, hydromorphone], naltrexone [e.g., naltrexone for extended-release injectable suspension])
Comparator	Not applicable
Outcomes	Recommendations regarding best practices (e.g., appropriate patient populations, guidance as to which therapies should be used [e.g., as first- or second-line treatments], treatment protocols [e.g., dosing and frequency], recommended safeguards, strategies to mitigate harms, adverse events, and misuse)

Criteria	Description
Study designs	Evidence-based guidelines

Results

No relevant evidence-based guidelines about the use of opioid agonist therapies for adults with opioid dependence in correctional settings were identified.

References of potential interest that did not meet the inclusion criteria are provided in [Appendix 1](#).

References

Guidelines and Recommendations

No literature identified.

Appendix 1: References of Potential Interest

Previous CADTH Reports

1. Programs for the Treatment of Opioid Addiction: An Environmental Scan. Ottawa: CADTH; 2019. (Environmental scan; no. 87). <https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/es/es0335-programs-for-treatment-opioid-addiction-in-Canada.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
2. Treatment programs for opioid use disorders: a review of guidelines. Ottawa: CADTH; 2018 Aug. (CADTH rapid response report: summary with critical appraisal). <https://www.cadth.ca/sites/default/files/pdf/htis/2018/RC1010%20Treatment%20Programs%20for%20Opioid%20Use%20Disorders%20Final.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.

Guidelines and Recommendations

Population Age Not Specified; Unclear Methodology

3. College of Physicians and Surgeons of Saskatchewan. Opioid Agonist Therapy Program: Standards and Guidelines for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder; 2022. <https://www.cps.sk.ca/iMIS/Documents/Legislation/Policies/OAT%20Standards%20and%20Guidelines.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
See: Corrections-Based Temporary Prescribers, p. 27-29; Special Situations: Incarceration, p. 70-71
4. College of Pharmacists of Manitoba. *Opioid Agonist Therapy Guidelines for Manitoba Pharmacists*; 2021. <https://cphm.ca/wp-content/uploads/Resource-Library/Opioid-Agonist-Therapy/OAT-Guidelines-Dec-10-2021-approved.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
See: Incarceration, p. 53-54
5. Federal Bureau of Prisons. Opioid use disorder: Diagnosis, evaluation, and treatment. Clinical Guidance; 2021. https://www.bop.gov/resources/pdfs/opioid_use_disorder_cg.pdf. Accessed 2022 May 13.
6. American Society of Addiction Medicine. Public Policy Statement on Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in Correctional Settings; 2020. <https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/public-policy-statements/2020-statement-on-treatment-of-oud-in-correctional-settings.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
7. Saskatchewan College of Pharmacy Professionals. Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) Standards; 2020 Oct. https://www.saskpharm.ca/document/5871/REF_OAT_Standards.pdf. Accessed 2022 May 13.
See: 13.2 Provincial Correctional Centres, p. 22-23; 13.3 Remand within Provincial Correctional Centres, p. 13.3
8. The ASAM National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder: 2020 Focused Update. *J Addict Med.* 2020;14(2S Suppl 1):1-91. https://journals.lww.com/journaladdictionmedicine/Fulltext/2020/04001/The_ASAM_National_Practice_Guideline_for_the_1.aspx. Accessed 2022 May 16.
See: Part 12: Special Populations: Individuals in the Criminal Justice System, p. 16, 60-62, 65
9. College of Family Physicians of Canada. Position Statement on Access to Opioid Agonist Treatment in Detention; 2019. <https://www.cfpc.ca/CFPC/media/Images/PDF/201912-Position-Statement-Prison-Health-Opioid-Therapy.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
10. Correctional Service Canada. Guidance on Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT): November 4, 2019. <https://www.csc-scc.gc.ca/health/002006-3004-en.shtml?wbdisable=true>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
11. Lintzeris N, Dunlop A, Masters D. Clinical guidelines for use of depot buprenorphine (Buvidal® and Sublocade®) in the treatment of opioid dependence. NSW Ministry of Health: Sydney (AU); 2019. <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/Publications/full-depot-bupe-interim-gl.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
See: b. Hospital and correctional settings, p. 40-41
12. Peeler M, Fiscella K, Terplan M, Sufrin C. Best Practices for Pregnant Incarcerated Women With Opioid Use Disorder. *Journal of Correctional Health Care.* 01 2019; 25(1): 4-14. [PubMed](#)
13. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration: Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Criminal Justice Settings. HHS Publication No. PEP19-MATUSECJS Rockville (MD): National Mental Health and Substance Use Policy Laboratory. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration; 2019. <https://store.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/d7/priv/pep19-matusecjs.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
14. National Commission on Correctional Health Care. Jail-based Medication-Assisted Treatment Promising Practices, Guidelines, and Resources for the Field; 2018. <https://www.sheriffs.org/publications/Jail-Based-MAT-PPG.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
15. NSW Clinical Guidelines: Treatment of Opioid Dependence – 2018. Sydney (AU): NSW Ministry of Health; 2018. <https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/aod/Publications/nsw-clinical-guidelines-opioid.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13
See: People with a recent interruption to regular opioid use, p. 18; 3.4.1 Correctional Settings, p. 76-79

Population Age Not Specified

16. World Health Organization. International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders; 2020. [International Standards for the Treatment of Drug Use Disorders \(who.int\)](https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240014342). Accessed 2022 May 13.
See: 5.3.4 Treatment in Prison Settings, p. 94-95
17. Canadian Research Initiative in Substance Misuse (CRISM). National Clinical Guideline: Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment: iOAT for Opioid Use Disorder; 2019. https://crism.ca/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/CRISM_National_IOAT_Clinical_Guideline-10Sep2019-English-FINAL.pdf. Accessed 2022 May 13
See: 3.6.v Transition to Oral Treatment Due to Incarceration, p.41-42; Appendix 10 De-Intensification of Treatment Due to Incarceration, p. 96.

Not Specific to Adults in Correctional Settings; Alternative Methodology

18. Centre for Addiction and Mental Health. Opioid Agonist Therapy: A Synthesis of Canadian Guidelines for Treating Opioid Use Disorder; 2021. <https://www.camh.ca/-/media/files/professionals/canadian-opioid-use-disorder-guideline2021-pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
See: Section C5. Patients who are incarcerated, p.3-38

Mixed Population – Adults and Adolescents; Unclear Methodology

19. National Commission on Correctional Health Care. Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Correctional Settings; 2021. <https://www.ncchc.org/opioid-use-disorder-treatment-in-correctional-settings>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
20. Health Quality Ontario. Quality Standards. Recommendations for Adoption: Opioid Use Disorder; 2018. <https://www.hqontario.ca/Portals/0/documents/evidence/quality-standards/qs-opioid-use-disorder-recommendations-for-adoption-en.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.
Note: Identified gaps and recommendations throughout the document apply to correctional facilities. See the following pages: 5-7, 9, 17, 18, 23-26.

Additional References

Toolkit

21. The National Council for Behavioral Health and Vital Strategies. Medication-assisted treatment for opioid use disorder in jails and prisons. A planning and implementation toolkit; 2020. <https://www.vitalstrategies.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/Medication-Assisted-Treatment-for-Opioid-Use-Disorder-in-Jails-and-Prisons.pdf>. Accessed 2022 May 13.