

The Alberta ODT Virtual Training Program

Course Overview

The Alberta Opioid Dependency Treatment (ODT) Virtual Training Program is a component of broader efforts to respond to the opioid crisis in Alberta by improving the capacity of prescribers and allied health care providers involved in treating opioid use disorder (OUD).

The Alberta ODT Virtual Training Program includes:



Interactive e-learning modules



Subject matter expert (SME) video recordings



Entrustable Professional Activity Simulations (EPA-Sims)

The program content aligns with current evidence and national guidelines. It satisfies the College of Physician & Surgeons of Alberta (CPSA) requirements for initiating and maintaining opioid agonist therapy (OAT).

You can access the training program anytime/anywhere at www.ahs.ca/odt.

Please submit questions regarding this training program to:

amh.practicesupports@ahs.ca

Learning Objectives

Module 1: Introduction (Duration: 0.5 Hours)

- Explain the history of opioids.
- Describe the global impact of opioid use.
- Explain how Canada's opioid crisis came to be.
- Describe the National and Provincial impact of opioid use.
- Explain the impact of opioid use on individuals and families.
- Identify evidence-informed guidelines for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

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Module 2: Opioids – Impact on the Brain & Body (Duration: 0.5 Hours)

- Identify the anatomy and structures of the brain.
- Explain the neurobiology of addiction and how opioids relate to this process.
- Describe the endogenous opioid system and its actions within the brain and body.
- Describe exogenous opioids, including their classification and agonistic properties.
- Describe the routes of opioid administration.
- Describe the various impacts of opioids on the body.

Module 3: Comprehensive Assessment and Opioid Use Disorder (Duration: 1 Hour)

- Define addiction and the contributing biopsychosocial and spiritual factors.
- Describe the spectrum of substance use and how addiction aligns.
- Explain the DSM-5 diagnostic criteria for substance use disorders, opioid use disorder, opioid intoxication, and opioid withdrawal.
- Explain the required components of a comprehensive assessment.
- Explain the assessment dimensions that guide a comprehensive assessment.

EPA-Sim 1: Conducting a Comprehensive Assessment for OUD (Duration: 2 Hours)

- Educate the patient regarding opioid use risks, OUD, OAT, and opioid poisoning prevention strategies.
- Conduct a strength-based comprehensive assessment including the six dimensions (intoxication/withdrawal, biomedical conditions, emotional/behavioural/cognitive conditions, readiness for change, return to use/continued use potential, and the recovery environment).
- Formulate a DSM-5 diagnosis with the relevant severity rating to determine if OAT is recommended.

Module 4: Reducing Harms Associated with Opioid Use (Duration: 1 Hour)

- Define harm reduction.
- Describe the philosophy and principles of harm reduction.
- Explain harm reduction approaches and services recommended in the treatment of opioid use disorder.
- Explain the signs of opioid intoxication and poisoning.
- Explain how to respond to an opioid poisoning.

EPA-Sim 2: Responding to an Opioid Poisoning (Duration: 2 Hours)

- Accurately identify when an individual is experiencing opioid poisoning.
- Effectively coordinate and implement critical steps to ensure a successful crisis intervention.
- Accurately assess the unconscious individual and provide appropriate initiation of rescue breathing and/or chest compressions as required.
- Safely administer appropriate doses of naloxone.
- Provide required support and education to the patient following the poisoning reversal, and ensure appropriate medical follow-up is coordinated.

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Module 5: Introduction to Opioid Agonist Treatment (Duration: 1 Hour)

- Describe evidence-informed interventions for the treatment of opioid use disorder.
- Differentiate 1st line and 2nd line opioid agonist treatment options.
- Explain requirements for initiating, maintaining, and transitioning between oral opioid agonist treatment.
- Explain the practice standards for frequency of urine testing, clinical visits and carries.
- Explain the practice standards for missed doses, spoiled doses and split doses.
- Explain best practices for de-prescribing opioid agonist treatment.

Module 6: OAT Across Clinical Cohorts (Duration: 1 Hour)

- Describe the prevalence of, and risk factors associated with OUD across various clinical cohorts.
- Explain practice considerations and recommendations for comprehensive treatment of OUD across various clinical cohorts.
- Explain the practice standards for prescribing opioid agonist treatment within various clinical cohorts.

Module 7: OAT with Buprenorphine/Naloxone (BUP-NLX) (Duration: 1 Hour)

- Define OAT with BUP-NLX as a 1st line treatment for OUD.
- Describe assessment requirements before initiation of BUP-NLX.
- Explain the process for initiation and stabilization of BUP-NLX.
- Explain maintenance dosing and requirements.

EPA-Sim 3: Initiating OAT with BUP/NLX: Home Induction (Duration: 2 Hours)

- Educate the patient regarding OAT options and collaboratively determine a treatment plan.
- Ensure all required treatment agreement documentation is completed and patient information is provided to guide safe and effective home induction.
- Collaborate with a treatment team to ensure the patient is initiated and stabilized on BUP/NLX safely and in accordance with national guidelines.
- Coordinate appropriate follow-up and/or referral to a community provider to ensure safe and effective maintenance of BUP/NLX.

Module 8: OAT with Methadone (Duration: 1 Hour)

- Define OAT with Methadone as a 2nd line treatment for OUD.
- Explain assessment requirements before initiation of Methadone.
- Explain the process for determining an initiating dose.
- Explain titration of Methadone for stabilization.
- Explain maintenance dosing and requirements.

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EPA-Sim 4: Initiating OAT with Methadone: Pregnant Patient (Duration: 2 Hours)

- Educate the patient regarding OAT options during pregnancy and collaboratively determine a treatment plan.
- Ensure all required documentation and baseline medical assessments are completed prior to initiation of methadone.
- Initiate and titrate the dosage of methadone safely and in accordance with national guidelines.
- Educate regarding frequency of clinical visits, electrocardiogram (ECG) monitoring, urine screening, and provision of carries.
- Advise the patient regarding management of missed dose, spoiled dose and/or poisoning.
- Outline the process for coordination and nuances of care during pregnancy, birth and postpartum including potential for split dosing and occurrence of neonatal withdrawal symptoms.

Module 9: Comprehensive Treatment & Psychosocial Interventions (Duration: 1 Hour)

- Describe validated frameworks to guide comprehensive treatment and patient placement.
- Describe practice settings and their effectiveness concerning the treatment of OUD.
- Identify practice standards for comprehensive treatment of OUD
- Describe evidence-informed psychosocial interventions and recovery/peer support services for the treatment of OUD.