

Opioid Agonist Treatment (OAT)

What is opioid agonist treatment?

Opioid agonist treatment provides people who are addicted to opioids with a prescribed daily medication to help with opioid withdrawal and cravings.

What is an opioid?

Opioids are drugs that act on the nervous system to relieve pain.

They come in prescription and non-prescription forms, including:

- morphine
- Tylenol with codeine (T4s, T3s)
- Percocet
- oxycodone (OxyContin)
- heroin
- fentanyl
- hydromorphone

How does the treatment work?

Opioid agonists decrease cravings for opioids and help with withdrawal symptoms. This helps a person with opioid addiction engage in counselling and therapy.



Decreases cravings & withdrawal



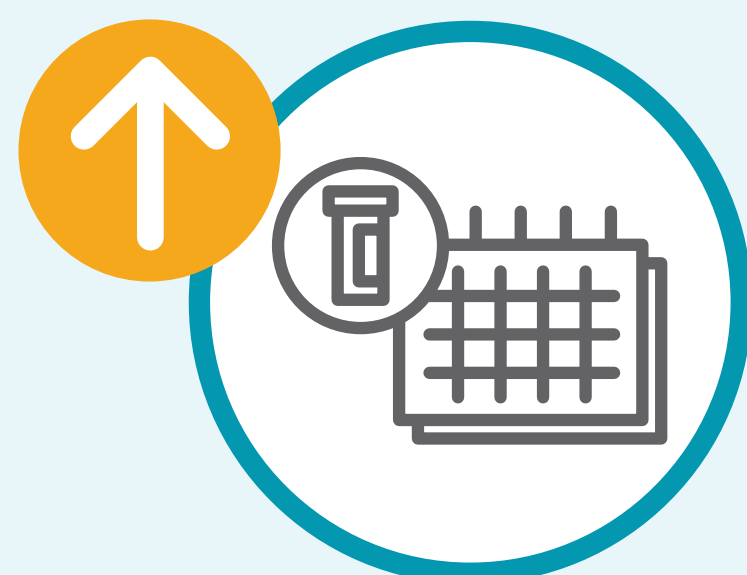
Enables a person to better engage in:

- Therapy
- Counselling
- Support

Evidence suggests that opioid agonist treatment will:



Increase entry into substance use treatment



Improve ability to follow through with medical treatment



Decrease death from overdose



Decrease illegal opioid use

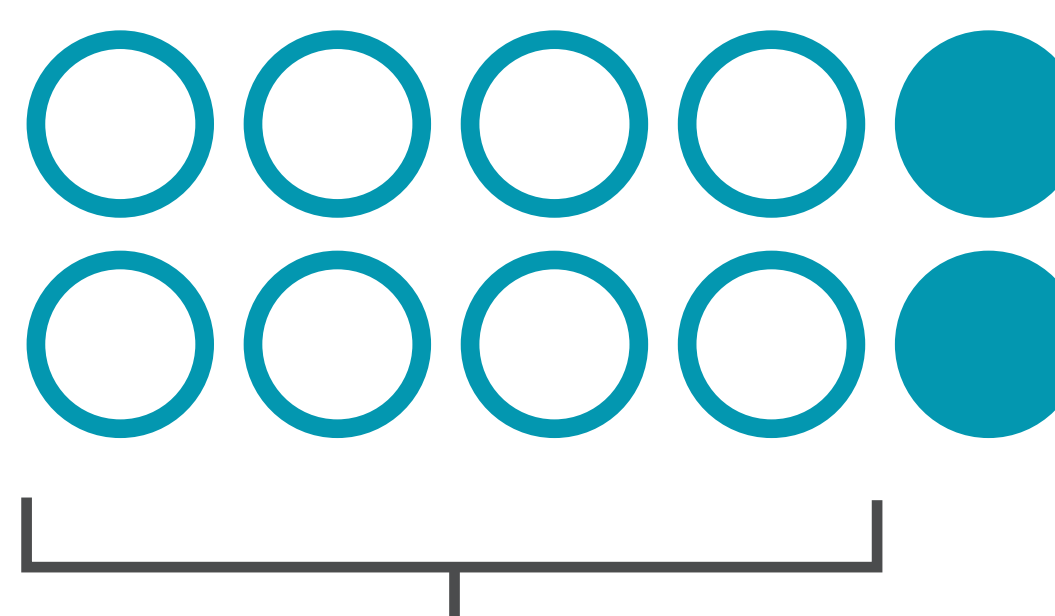


Decrease HIV risk behaviour

People who engage with services tend to get better.

- Opioid agonist treatment is the best available treatment for opioid addiction.
- OAT is the best predictor of improved outcomes for people with opioid addiction.

After five years most people on opioid agonist treatment have:



Reduced their illegal opioid use by 80%



Reduced their sharing of needles by 66%

