



# NEW MEXICO CORRECTIONS DEPARTMENT

Secretary  
Alisha Tafoya Lucero

CD-176300 Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)/Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Pilot Program	Issued: 01/09/25 Effective: 01/09/25	Reviewed: NA Revised: NA
Alisha Tafoya Lucero, Cabinet Secretary		<i>Original Signed and Kept on File</i>

## AUTHORITY:

NMSA 1978, § 24-1-5.11 (2023)

## REFERENCE:

- A. ACA Expected Practices 5-ACI-6B-01(M) through 5-ACI-6B-12 and 5-ACI-6D-10, Performance Based Expected Practices for Adult Correctional Institutions, 5th Edition.
- B. National Commission on Correctional Health Care. (n.d.). *Position statements and guidelines on MAT in correctional health care.* <https://www.ncchc.org/>
- C. GAINS Center for Behavioral Health and Justice Transformation. (n.d.). *Model policy: MOUD diversion and mitigation management.* Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.

## PURPOSE:

This policy establishes the implementation of a pilot program within the New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) to provide buprenorphine treatment to inmates entering NMCD custody who are already receiving Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) under the supervision of a qualified medical provider. It is anticipated that this pilot program will be replaced, on or before December 31, 2025, by a permanent program to provide continuation of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) services or medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in compliance with regulations adopted by the New Mexico Health Care Authority for individuals receiving MAT or MOUD in the community or in a county detention facility prior to booking.

## APPLICABILITY:

New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) employees and contracted personnel involved in the delivery of adult health services within NMCD facilities. It is specifically limited to inmates entering NMCD custody who were receiving MOUD at their prior place of incarceration. Buprenorphine will be the only medication offered under NMCD's pilot Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program.

## FORMS:

None

**ATTACHMENTS:**

None

**DEFINITIONS:**

- A. *Incarcerated Individual*: A person confined within a New Mexico Corrections Department (NMCD) correctional facility.
- B. *Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)*: FDA-approved medication for treating opioid use disorder. Buprenorphine will be the only medication offered under NMCD's pilot Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) program.
- C. *Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)*: MAT is a comprehensive approach that combines FDA-approved medications with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders.
- D. *Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)*: A pattern of opioid use causing significant impairment or distress, diagnosed per the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM)* criteria.



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## AUTHORITY:

Policy CD-176300

## PROCEDURES

### A. SCREENING

1. Inmates will be screened for OUD within twenty-four (24) hours of arriving at a Reception and Diagnostic Center at either Central New Mexico Correctional Facility or Western New Mexico Correctional Facility.
2. Medical staff will inquire whether the inmate is currently receiving MOUD prescribed by a qualified healthcare provider.
3. The screening will include the medication, prescribing provider, last dose date, and dosage.
4. Screening results will be recorded in the inmate's medical intake record.
5. NMCD staff may independently verify treatment details.

### B. INDEPENDENT ASSESSMENT

1. Screeners must notify the on-call medical provider of any inmates reporting MOUD treatment.
2. The medical provider will independently assess the need for continued buprenorphine treatment.
  - a. The provider will consider relevant clinical factors and may consult with NMCD staff.
  - b. Pregnant or lactating inmates receiving buprenorphine under the NMCD program will be reassessed post-pregnancy or lactation.

### C. APPROVED ASSESSMENTS

1. Assessments that are approved by the medical provider require the issuance of a written medical order for buprenorphine.
2. Medical staff will document the MOUD regimen in the inmate's care plan.
3. An inmate prescribed buprenorphine shall receive doses consistent with their care plan.

4. Brief disruptions of an existing MOUD treatment regimen due to incarceration or transport do not disqualify inmates from receiving buprenorphine.

#### **D. MOUD DISCONTINUATION**

1. An inmate may be removed from MAT at the discretion of the medical provider for reasons including:
  - a. identification of medical issues such as a medical contraindication or intolerance of the medication.
  - b. Refer to section E.

#### **E. MANAGING NON-COMPLIANCE**

When an individual is found to have engaged in non-compliance, following a thorough investigation that ensures fairness and transparency, the following steps should guide the response. The focus should be on interventions and strategies to address the behavior while maintaining the integrity of the treatment program. Each step should be thoughtfully applied to ensure a measured and effective response.

1. Engage in Dialogue: Initiate discussions with the patient to identify barriers to compliance and encourage recommitment to treatment goals.
2. Behavioral Agreements: Establish clear agreements with the patient that define treatment expectations (e.g., no diversion of medications) and outline the consequences of non-compliance.
3. Enhanced Counseling and Support: Offer additional counseling or behavioral interventions to address underlying issues contributing to non-compliance.
4. Controlled Treatment Settings: Provide treatment in a more structured or closely monitored environment to mitigate risks.
5. Additional Monitoring: Introduce further safeguards, such as increased supervision, alternative medication delivery methods, or other appropriate controls, to support adherence.
6. Team-Based Approach: Collaborate with a multidisciplinary team (e.g., addiction specialists, mental health providers, and correctional staff) to assess the situation and determine the best course of action based on the individual's needs and behavior.
7. Discontinuation of Treatment: In cases where all other options have been carefully considered and implemented, or where it is reasonably determined that alternative approaches would not be effective in ensuring compliance, discontinuation of treatment may be a necessary step to maintain program integrity and safety. This decision should be made with great care, balancing the patient's needs with the goals of the treatment program. MOUD or MAT shall not be denied to any eligible program participant as a form of disciplinary action unless that

action is directly related to program non-compliance.

**F. DATA COLLECTION AND QUARTERLY REPORTING OF AGGREGATED DATA**

Medical providers will track and record the following data and provide this data to NMCD on a quarterly basis:

1. Number of inmates screened the preceding quarter who reported MOUD treatment under the supervision of a qualified healthcare provider prior to arriving at NMCD.
2. Number of inmates initiating MOUD continuity treatment under a plan of care in the pilot program in the preceding quarter while in NMCD custody.
3. Total number of inmates receiving MOUD treatment under a plan of care in the pilot program during the preceding quarter.