

Opioid Treatment Programs

Overview

Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) are the only settings in which individuals can be administered or dispensed all three types of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD): methadone, buprenorphine products (Suboxone, Subutex), and naltrexone (Vivitrol).

OTPs additionally offer medical and behavioral health services to all patients to facilitate a holistic approach to recovery.

As medication is the first line of treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD), opioid treatment programs are a vital SUD treatment option in Washington state.

Additionally, with the potency of fentanyl in the illicit drug supply, methadone is the strongest of the FDA approved medications to treat OUD.

OTP settings are the only setting where methadone is available for ongoing, long-term care of individuals with OUD. This means OTPs are a key treatment setting type of great importance in addressing the current opioid and overdose crisis in Washington State.

Eligibility

OTP services are available to individuals who meet [DSM-5 criteria](#) for an opioid use disorder and who voluntarily choose maintenance or withdrawal treatment.

Individuals who receive Medicaid, other state-funded medical treatment, or who qualify as low-income are eligible for services.

OTP locations

There are currently 39 Opioid Treatment Programs in the state. These OTP sites provide treatment to over 16,000 Washingtonians.

Most OTPs are located along the I-5 corridor; others are in more remote areas in counties throughout the state.

Additional OTP sites are anticipated to open over the next few years as OTP expansion continues, statewide.

Tribally owned and operated OTPs

Tribal OTPs provide culturally based and holistic care models, serving both the Tribal community and non-Tribal surrounding areas. Tribal OTP programs are nationally known as best practice programs.

Washington State is fortunate to have 10 Tribally owned and operated OTPs. The most of any US State and Territory.

Additional tribally owned and/or operated OTP sites are anticipated to open over the next few years as OTP expansion continues.

Mobile medication units

OTP Mobile Medication Units (MMU) are mobile extensions of established physical OTP facilities and offer the same treatment. OTP MMUs expand MOUD treatment to rural areas and other settings where patients may have difficulty traveling to an OTP.

Washington State currently has eleven OTP MMUs, with several more expected to open by early 2025. Washington State currently has more OTP MMUs than any other US State or Territory.

Information on OTP MMU licensing and credentialing can be found on the [Department of Health website](#).

OTP oversight

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) provides oversight for the contracted services of behavioral health-administrative service organizations (BH-ASO) and managed care organizations (MCO) through its Washington State Opioid Treatment Authority (WA SOTA) office.

The SOTA team in Washington State also provides oversight over care of non-Medicaid patients in OTP settings as per 42 CFR Part 8.

Contact information for the WA SOTA team at HCA can be found at the end of this document.

Washington State Department of Health and Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission certification and licenses are also required for all OTPs.

OTPs are also overseen by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association ([SAMHSA](#)) and the federal Drug Enforcement Agency ([DEA](#)).

They must also be accredited by any of these accreditation bodies: [Washington State Department of Health](#), [CARF International](#), [Council on Accreditation](#), or [The Joint Commission](#).

RCW 71.24.590; WAC 246-341-1000 through WAC 246-341-1025. 42 CFR Part 8.

Rates and reimbursement

OTP services are currently Medicaid and Medicare-reimbursable services available to:

- All fee-for-service Medicaid and MCO Medicaid patients
- All dually eligible Medicaid/Medicare patients
- All Medicare patients

OTP services are often also reimbursable through commercial or private, employer-based insurance providers, and for under-insured or noninsured individuals via self-pay.

Special projects

OTP MMU expansion project

The 2022 Washington State Legislature included funding of \$9,062,000 to support up to five OTP MMUs. State and federal funding were made available to offset initial startup and service delivery costs for eligible OTPs to achieve these goals as provided in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

In fall of 2022, HCA initiated an RFP to solicit proposals from licensed OTPs to mobilize services to address treatment gaps areas across Washington using MMUs.

In response to the RFP, five OTP agencies were successful bidders.

Lighthouse central registry

HCA manages a central registry for all OTPs from the HCA budget. This registry is valued at approximately \$75,000 annually.

This central registry assists all OTPs in meeting federal and state requirements, dual enrollment verifications, and maintaining emergency plans for the protection of patients.

Capital expansion project

HCA will manage opioid settlement funding valued at \$3.768 million to promote OTP expansion in rural areas. Contracting for this capital expansion is expected to take place by December 2024, resulting in a future OTP clinic located in central or eastern Washington.

Methadone and MOUD patient discrimination

The Washington State Opioid Treatment Authority team at HCA is the HCA SME for this topic of Methadone and MOUD patient discrimination.

For any questions on Opioid Treatment Programs please see the contact information to follow.

More information

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Additional resources

[Washington State OTP Program Guide 2023](#)

[Opioid Treatment Programs \(OTP\)](#),

[Medication for Opioid Use Disorder \(MOUD\)](#)

[Opioid Use Disorder Treatment \(OUD\)](#)