

## MODULE 9: Interpretation of Drug Testing Results in Medication Assisted Treatment

*This module helps Drug Courts learn how to interpret drug test results of patients in MAT.*

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Understand how to use standard instrument-based screening immunoassay drug tests (in-lab or in-court) and that MAT drugs do not cross-react to produce “false positive” results
- Recognize that when using on-site testing devices, the cross-reactivity toward MAT drugs is largely unstudied
- Understand that confirmation testing (GC/MS or LC/MS) resolves all cross-reactivity issues

Length: 43 minutes

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**NDCI**  
NATIONAL DRUG  
COURT INSTITUTE

*The Professional Services  
Branch of NADCP*

1029 N. Royal Street, Suite 201  
Alexandria, VA 22314

Tel: 703.575.9400

Fax: 703.575.9402

 **ALLRISE.ORG**

# Educating Drug Courts on Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)

**ONLINE  
COURSE**

The National Drug Court Institute (NDCI), with funding from the Office of National Drug Control Policy, Executive Office of the White House, in collaboration with the American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP), has developed an online training curriculum designed to educate Drug Court professionals on medication assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders, with a major focus on opioid use disorders. Nine modules were developed and will be available on [www.NDCRC.org](http://www.NDCRC.org).



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## MODULE 1: What Are Substance Use Disorders?

*This module provides an overview of how to diagnose a substance use disorder, along with a discussion of the neurobiology of addiction.*

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Describe major features of substance use disorders and explain how a substance use disorder is identified and diagnosed
- Identify factors that predispose an individual to becoming addicted
- Describe how addictive substances act on the brain to influence motivation and behavior
- Explain the roles of positive and negative reinforcement in substance use disorders
- Compare recovery from addictions to other chronic medical conditions

Length: 23 minutes

## MODULE 2: What Is Medication Assisted Treatment?

*This module explains what medication assisted treatment (MAT) is, how substance use disorders impact the brain, how MAT works, and how to decide which medication is best for each individual.*

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Identify MAT as part of a comprehensive treatment program
- Recognize addiction to be a chronic brain disease, not an acute illness
- Describe how maintenance treatment leads to improved outcomes
- Understand that the choice of medication is highly individualized
- Explain diversion as a concern but also a complicated phenomenon

Length: 44 minutes

## MODULE 3: Medication Assisted Therapies: Using Medication for Treatment of Opioid and Alcohol Disorders

*This module helps Drug Court professionals understand the ways various medication assisted therapies are used in clinical practice.*

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Communicate to a colleague the practical differences between medications for opioid use disorders: methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone

- Teach a Drug Court client about medications used in alcohol treatment: naltrexone, acamprosate, and disulfiram
- Consider the chronic disease model of addiction and discuss the merits of chronic (indefinite) versus time-limited therapies

Length: 56 minutes

## MODULE 4: Strategies to Reduce Diversion of Abusable Medications

*This module provides specific approaches to reduce diversion through careful diagnoses, close partnership with clinical staff, minimizing the prescription of controlled substances, and using prescriber- and system-based prevention techniques.*

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Recognize that a comprehensive diagnosis is the first step in minimizing risk for abuse of controlled substances (diversion)
- Identify that bias affects the availability of MAT, which itself is a means to prevent diversion
- Recognize that standard mental health treatments for co-occurring psychiatric disorders may help prevent diversion
- Identify the ideal characteristics of drug tests for monitoring potential diversion
- Recognize that consolidating and partnering with providers is a key strategy in preventing diversion

Length: 44 minutes

## MODULE 5: Primary Components of Evidence-based Treatments for Addictions

*This module discusses the primary components of evidence-based treatment and explains multiple modalities of treatment.*

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Define *evidence-based treatment*
- Describe the relationship among and principles of the components of psychotherapies for addictions:
  - Enhancing motivation to change
  - Realigning priorities
  - Improving skills
  - Involving peers and family members in treatment
- Appreciate the value of incorporating multiple modalities of treatment from psychotherapies to medications to family support during treatment, and of tailoring treatment to the needs of the individual patient/client

Length: 56 minutes

## MODULE 6: Pros and Cons of MAT

*This module discusses the pros and cons of MAT modalities, objective monitoring, and diversion control for MAT. It also reviews a case study.*

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Identify three types of MAT for the treatment of opioid use disorders
- Identify the pros and cons of each modality
- Design treatment plans that include objective monitoring of sobriety for each modality

Length: 31 minutes

## MODULE 7: Drug Courts and MAT: The Legal Landscape

*This module reviews the legal ramifications of having blanket provisions against MAT.*

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Communicate to a colleague the efficacy of MAT
- Make use of NADCP/NDCI monographs, Resolutions, and *Best Practice Standards*
- Realize that federally funded Drug Courts cannot condition participation on therapies other than MAT and cannot require cessation if MAT is prescribed
- Recognize that blanket prohibition of MAT is not permissible

Length: 43 minutes

## MODULE 8: Long-term Opioid Therapy and Chronic Pain: Understanding and Mitigating Risks

*This module addresses the relationship between pain and addiction and discusses how to manage the pain of patients on MAT.*

At the end of this module, participants should be able to:

- Understand the intersection between pain and addiction
- Recognize the risks and benefits of opioid therapy for pain
- Understand methods for assessing and reducing risks in patients prescribed opioids for pain
- Understand the various approaches to opioid therapy for acute and chronic pain for patients on MAT

Length: 48 minutes