

# Medication Assisted Treatment MAT

The Root Center provides medication assisted treatment (MAT) for substance use disorders to those who qualify. MAT uses medications in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to provide a “whole-patient” approach. The ultimate goal of MAT is full recovery, including the ability to live a self-directed life.

This treatment approach has been shown to: improve patient survival, increase retention in treatment, decrease illicit opiate and other drug use as well as reduce other criminal activity among people with substance use disorders, increase patients’ ability to gain and maintain employment, and improve birth outcomes among women who have substance use disorders and are pregnant.

These approved medications assist with urges, cravings, withdrawal symptoms, and some act as a blocking mechanism for the euphoric effects of alcohol and opioids. Currently, Root offers methadone for opioid use disorder and is considering adding other medications listed below.

## Opioid Use Disorder

### **Methadone**

Methadone is an opioid treatment medication that reduces withdrawal symptoms in people addicted to heroin or other narcotic drugs without causing the “high” associated with the drug.

Methadone is used as a pain reliever and as part of drug addiction detoxification and maintenance programs. It is available only from a certified pharmacy.

### **Buprenorphine**

Buprenorphine is an opioid treatment medication and the combination of buprenorphine and naloxone (discussed later) are used to treat opioid dependence, including heroin and narcotic painkillers. The medication works to prevent withdrawal symptoms when someone stops taking opioid drugs by producing similar effects to those drugs.



## Overdose Prevention

### **Naloxone**

Naloxone is a medication which saves lives by reversing the effects of an opioid overdose. Root Center patients, their friends and family members, can receive a prescription for Naloxone as early as the initial evaluation and throughout treatment. The medication is administered at the time of the overdose.

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## Medication Assisted Treatment

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*Methadone-assisted treatment for me was, and still is, the biggest life-changing event in my life.*

- Elisa

## Alcohol Use Disorder

### **Campral (Acamprosate)**

Acamprosate affects chemicals in the brain that may be unbalanced in a person who is addicted to alcohol. Acamprosate works by restoring the chemical balance in the brain in an alcohol-dependent person who has recently quit drinking.

Acamprosate is used together with behavior modification and counseling support to help a person who has recently stopped drinking alcohol, but is not likely to be helpful if the patient has not quit drinking or undergone detoxification. It may also not help if patients are also addicted to other substances.

### **Antabuse (Disulfiram)**

Antabuse blocks an enzyme that is involved in metabolizing alcohol intake. Disulfiram produces very unpleasant side effects when combined with alcohol in the body and is used in certain people with chronic alcoholism.

## Other Services

- + Medication Assisted Treatment
- + Medical services
- + Psychiatric evaluations for methadone maintenance clients based upon clinically assessed need
- + Infectious disease services
- + Intensive Outpatient Program
- + Individual, group and family counseling