



## Diagnosing and Treating Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) During COVID-19

Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, less than **20%** of Americans with **OUD** received any specialty treatment, according to a 2016 study.

Despite this, we know that pharmacologic treatment for **OUD** can be delivered effectively in primary care settings to improve patients' survival rates. [SAMHSA 2017; Sordo, et al. 2017; Larochelle, et al. 2018].

During the COVID 19 pandemic, **40 states** have seen increases in **opioid-related deaths**, according to a recent [American Medical Association report](#).

In light of this trend, the **New York State Department of Health AIDS Institute** recommends that primary care clinicians for patients like those from **SelectHealth**, the Medicaid special needs plan from VNSNY CHOICE, *standardly* screen for illicit drug use and nonmedical use of prescription drugs (e.g., opioids, benzodiazepines, and stimulants) in **all adult patients ≥18 years old**. The Institute also recommends that all clinical care providers in NYS be informed of treatment options for OUD.

### Best Standard of Care for OUD

The New York State Quality Assurance Reporting Requirements (NYSQARR) recommends that clinicians initiate medication-assisted therapy (MAT) for OUD within **30 days (or earlier)** of a new opioid diagnosis. For details refer to the [Initiation of Pharmacotherapy Upon](#)

[New Episode of Opioid Dependence](#) quality.

Ensure your treatment plans align with opioid diagnosis guidelines:

SelectHealth members have access to behavioral health providers and facilities through the Beacon Health Options network. Beacon Health Options 1-855-735-6098; 24 hours a day, 7 days a week or [BeaconHealthOptions.com](https://www.beaconhealthoptions.com).

### Common Opioid Dependence Diagnosis Codes

For patients with active opioid dependence or a history of dependence, document opioid dependence status (active vs. remission) and use appropriate diagnosis codes:

- *Opioid active dependence diagnosis codes:* F11.10, F11.90, F11.20
- *Opioid remission diagnosis codes:* F11.11 or F11.21

If you have any questions about this communication, please contact [Sheila.Spiezio@vnsnsy.org](mailto:Sheila.Spiezio@vnsnsy.org).

### CHOICE Provider Services

Please call toll free: 1-866-783-0222  
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VNSNY CHOICE Provider network!**

We want to make this publication useful to you. Please let us know what you think! Write to us at [CHOICEProviderNews@vnsny.org](mailto:CHOICEProviderNews@vnsny.org).

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