

Primary Care “Warm Handoff”: For Substance Use Disorder



MODULE 5

www.pa.gov/collections/opioid-epidemic | RA-DH-PDMP@pa.gov

Primary Care Site Preparation^a

Patient Presents

1. Medical history/PDMP query
2. Physical examination
3. Standardized screen for substance use disorder/opioid use disorder^b

Screen Positive^c

Screen Negative^d

Does your practice provide substance disorder treatment?^e

Provide positive reinforcement^f

Yes, begin treatment

No

Provide patient-centered communication regarding need to link to substance use disorder treatment system for further support
<https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelpnow/CareProvider.aspx>

Refer patient to treatment

Contact Single County Authority (Central Intake Unit) for assessment
<https://apps.ddap.pa.gov/gethelpnow/CountyServices.aspx>

- Provide transportation
- Reach out and make appointments

Facilitate appointment at an opioid use disorder treatment provider such as a Centers of Excellence
<http://www.dhs.pa.gov/citizens/substanceabuseservices/centersofexcellence>

- Provide:
- Naloxone kits^g
 - Naloxone education
 - Naloxone prescription

^a Prepare for managing patients with substance use or opioid use disorder (see steps 1-10 on pages 8-9 of the Module 5 Guide document).

^b Assess risk for possible substance use disorder using recommended screening tools and conduct laboratory testing (if necessary): liver function/enzyme test, multi-panel blood test, and urine, saliva, or hair drug test.

^c Positive screen: patient is showing signs of substance use disorder after a PDMP query (i.e., multiple provider episodes), physical examination (i.e., exhibiting symptoms of withdrawal), or standardized screening (i.e., positive results of questionnaire). If the patient presents with one or more of these criteria during screening, then a brief intervention should be conducted to determine appropriate subsequent care services (refer to Module 6 on Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment).

^d Negative screen: patient shows no signs of substance use disorder during assessment

^e Assess need for detoxification: consider results of substance use disorder screening tools, consider results of laboratory testing, and conduct withdrawal screening using the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale or the Subjective Opiate Withdrawal Scale (see Module 7 for more information on withdrawal scales).

^f Reinforce healthy behavior(s) through positive reinforcement.

^g If naloxone kits are not available, patients should be provided with a naloxone prescription and should also be informed that the naloxone standing order allows the patient to obtain naloxone without a prescription, if needed.