

COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT MOUDS IN JAIL

Are medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) available in King County jails?

Yes, Jail Health Services (JHS) offers MOUDs in a variety of circumstances:

- **Continuation.** JHS continues buprenorphine, methadone, and naltrexone for individuals with a verified prescription for those medications.
- **Initiation.** Jail Health began bupe initiation/induction last year for individuals who have a diagnosis of moderate to severe Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). People with OUD who are pregnant, and not already on a MOUD, are prescribed methadone. We do not start people on methadone or naltrexone.
- **Withdrawal.** JHS also offers a 4-day taper for individuals experiencing opioid withdrawal who are not interested in ongoing treatment.

How does JHS determine who receives buprenorphine?

In order to receive buprenorphine, individuals must meet certain criteria:

- **Continuation.** Individuals must have an active and verified prescription for buprenorphine from a community provider and have buprenorphine in their system in order to have their prescription continued.
- **Initiation.** Individuals must have a diagnosis of moderate to severe Opioid Use Disorder and be in active opioid withdrawal based on a Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Score of 10 or higher.
- **Withdrawal.** Individuals must be in active opioid withdrawal based on a Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Score of 10 or higher.

How many people can you serve?

Beginning March 1, 2021, JHS removed the upper limit making it so that anyone who meets the criteria above can be offered buprenorphine.

Does JHS also offer Naloxone?

Yes, we offer Naloxone in a variety of circumstances. Individuals who are taking MOUDs while in custody will automatically be offered Naloxone and provided with education on how and why to use it. Other individuals can request Naloxone during a clinic visit or by requesting it through the jail's Kite system.

What is the Treatment Connections Program?

The Treatment Connections Program is a service that is available to individuals booked into either KCCF or MRJC who have an Opioid Use Disorder. It operates in conjunction with JHS' buprenorphine prescribing, but a person does not have to be receiving buprenorphine in order to receive services from the program. Program participants receive a brief intervention, overdose safety planning, and referrals/linkage to a community provider. Participants also receive naloxone education and have naloxone placed on their property if they are interested. Because an individual's recovery typically improves the longer they are in treatment, the Treatment Connection Program's primary goal is to establish a lasting connection between the participant and a community provider. For this reason, individuals can participate in the program even after they are released.

How do people get referred to Treatment Connections?

All individuals who screen positive for OUD at booking are referred to the Treatment Connections Program by the intake nurse. However, for a variety of reasons, some individuals do not screen positive at booking even though they might meet the criteria for OUD. Defense attorneys and defense social workers are encouraged to contact Treatment Connections if they are working with an individual who seems to meet the criteria but is not participating or if they are unsure if they are participating. Please note that Treatment Connections is a 42 CFR Part 2 covered entity and cannot confirm or deny if someone is participating without the individual's consent.

Are services only available for people pre-trial? Post-trial?

Services are designed for individuals releasing to the community regardless of the status of their legal case.

Does someone have to have a release date in order to access services?

Individuals do not need to have a release date in order to access Treatment Connections, though participants are often prioritized based on their potential for release. Because the release date is usually unknown, the MAT Specialists begin working with the participant as soon as possible after they are booked. MAT Specialists often reach out to community providers, social workers, defense attorneys or defense social workers to determine if other services are being planned.

What happens when someone is released?

The MAT Specialist's primary objective is to connect participants to a MOUD provider following release from jail. If all goes as planned, the MAT Specialist will have identified a community provider and developed a follow-up plan with the participant before they release. Upon release, the MAT Specialist will contact the identified community provider to schedule an appointment for the same day or the soonest possible depending on the individual's unique circumstances. Clients who are on buprenorphine while in custody will also be provided a 7-day supply at the time of release if the individual releases within business hours (6:30 am – 6:30 pm). They will also receive other resources, information and supplies at release.

Are there incentives for participation?

Yes, the Treatment Connections Program offers transportation assistance to attend MOUD appointments. Participants are also eligible to receive \$10 for each provider visit they attend (up to \$50) to assist in removing barriers and accessing treatment. MAT Specialists and Community Health Workers are available to meet participants at community appointments as well.

QUESTIONS?

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