

Opioid Treatment Programs

Overview

Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) are the only settings in which individuals can be administered or dispensed all three types of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD): methadone, buprenorphine products (Suboxone, Subutex), and naltrexone (Vivitrol).

Because medication is the first line of treatment for individuals with opioid use disorder (OUD), opioid treatment programs are a vital treatment option in Washington state.

OTPs additionally offer medical and behavioral health services to all patients to facilitate a holistic approach to recovery.

Eligibility

OTP services are available to individuals who meet [DSM-5 criteria](#) for an opioid use disorder and who voluntarily choose maintenance or withdrawal treatment.

Individuals who receive Medicaid, other state-funded medical treatment, or who qualify as low-income are eligible for services.

OTP locations

There are currently 36 Opioid Treatment Programs in the state. These OTP sites provide treatment to over 14,000 Washingtonians.

Most OTPs are located along the I-5 corridor; others are in more remote areas in counties throughout the state.

Tribally owned and operated OTPs

Tribal OTPs provide culturally based and holistic care models, serving both the Tribal community and non-Tribal surrounding areas. Tribal OTP programs are nationally known as best practice programs.

Washington State is fortunate to have seven Tribally owned and operated OTPs. Additional sites

are anticipated to come online over the next several years.

Mobile medication units

OTP Mobile Medication Units (MMU) are mobile extensions of established physical OTP facilities and offer the same treatment. OTP MMUs expand MOUD treatment to rural areas and other settings where patients may have difficulty traveling to an OTP.

Washington State currently has six OTP MMUs, with several more expected to open by early 2024.

Information on OTP MMU licensing and credentialing can be found on the [Department of Health website](#).

OTP oversight

The Washington State Health Care Authority (HCA) provides oversight for the contracted services of behavioral health-administrative service organizations (BH-ASO) and managed care organizations (MCO) through its Washington State Opioid Treatment Authority office. [Washington State Department of Health](#) and the [Pharmacy Quality Assurance Commission](#) certification and licenses are required.

OTPs are also overseen by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Association ([SAMHSA](#)) and the federal Drug Enforcement Agency ([DEA](#)). They must be accredited by any of these accreditation bodies: [Washington State Department of Health](#), [CARF International](#), [Council on Accreditation](#), or [The Joint Commission](#).

RCW 71.24.590; WAC 246-341-1000 through WAC 246-341-1025.

Rates and reimbursement

OTP services are currently Medicaid-reimbursable services available to:

- All fee-for-service MCO patients
- All dually eligible Medicaid/Medicare patients
- All Medicare patients

OTP services are often also reimbursable through commercial or private, employer-based insurance providers, and for under-insured or noninsured individuals via self-pay.

Special projects

OTP MMU expansion project

The 2022 Washington State Legislature included funding of \$9,062,000 to support up to five OTP MMUs. State and federal funding were made available to offset initial startup and service delivery costs for eligible OTPs to achieve these goals as provided in the Request for Proposals (RFP).

In fall of 2022, HCA initiated an RFP to solicit proposals from licensed OTPs to mobilize services to address treatment gaps areas across Washington using MMUs.

In response to the RFP, five OTP agencies were successful bidders.

Lighthouse central registry

HCA manages a central registry for all OTPs from the HCA budget. This registry is valued at approximately \$65,000 annually.

This central registry assists all OTPs in meeting federal and state requirements, dual enrollment verifications, and maintaining emergency plans for the protection of patients.

Capital expansion project

HCA will manage opioid settlement funding valued at \$3.768 million to promote OTP expansion in rural areas. Details of this project are forthcoming.

More information

Contact: Jessica Blose, SUDP, LMHC, NCC, CCMHC
Washington state treatment authority
360-643-7850
Jessica.Blose@hca.wa.gov

Contact: Sara Multanen-Karr, MBA-HM, SUDP
Opioid treatment programs administrator
360-643-7106
Sara.Multanen-Karr@hca.wa.gov

Contact: Lauren Kula, MSW, SUDP
Opioid treatment quality improvement program manager
360-742-2182
Lauren.Kula@hca.wa.gov

Additional resources

[Washington State OTP Program Guide 2023](#)

[Opioid Treatment Programs \(OTP\),](#)

[Medication for Opioid Use Disorder \(MOUD\)](#)

[Opioid Use Disorder Treatment \(OUD\)](#)