Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD): WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW

DEFINITION:
Using MOUD is an evidence-based approach to assist in stopping or reducing the use of opioids. When MOUD are properly managed, the medications can normalize brain chemistry.

BENEFITS OF USING MOUD:
- Additional support for people who choose to reduce or stop their opioid use
- Decreased cravings and withdrawal symptoms
- Increased likelihood the person will not continue to use drugs
- Reduced symptoms of opioid use disorder (OUD)
- Decreased risk of transmitting infectious diseases
- Lowered chances of an overdose-related death

MOUD are...
- Evidence-based.
- Used in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies to provide a whole-patient approach to treatment.
- Flexible enough to tailor treatment to an individual patient's circumstances and needs.
- Closely monitored by medical providers through a treatment plan.

MOUD are not...
- Used to substitute one drug for another.
- Going to overwhelm providers.
- Adding additional paperwork.
- Complicated or difficult when determining the correct dosage.

Treatment for OUD needs to be tailored to each individual's circumstances and needs. MOUD are most effective when combined with other supports such as counseling and skills development.

RESOURCES
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration MOUD site: https://www.samhsa.gov/medications-substance-use-disorders
- National Harm Reduction Coalition MOUD site: https://harmreduction.org/issues/medication-for-opioid-use-disorder/
- National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment website: https://www.naabt.org/