

Start here!

## Identifying When to Refer a Patient for Opioid Use Disorder Treatment

Recognizing the signs of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) isn't always straightforward. This quick **decision guide** is designed to **help identify when someone may need additional support** and how to confidently refer them to care. Early intervention can save lives, reduce harm and open the door to long-term recovery.

### Step 1: Initial Concern

Have you noticed or been informed of **ANY** of the following?

- ☐ Recent overdose or withdrawal symptoms
- ☐ Drug-seeking behavior (frequent ER visits, lost prescriptions, etc.)
- ☐ Positive drug screen
- ☐ Criminal charges related to substance use
- ☐ Patient or their loved one expressing concern about opioid use or asking for help
- ☐ Signs of mental health crisis



If yes, proceed to next step



If no, continue routine care but monitor for future signs

### Step 2: Evaluate Substance Use Impact

Has substance use caused **ANY** of the following?

- ☐ Missed appointments or inability to manage daily responsibilities
- ☐ Legal, financial or employment struggles
- ☐ Housing instability or family welfare involvement
- ☐ Health complications or unmanaged chronic pain
- ☐ Increased tolerance or withdrawal symptoms
- ☐ Difficulty stopping use despite negative consequences



If yes to any, proceed to referral



If unsure, consider consulting with a referring partner such as BHG



To get help call:  
**844-535-7291**



Or visit:  
**BHGREcovery.com**

See following page for next steps...

## Step 3: Determine Referral Level

Is the patient in immediate crisis (overdose, suicidal, violent behavior)?

### Yes



- ☐ **Overdose** → Call 911, administer Naloxone if available, refer to Emergency Department (ED)
- ☐ **Suicidal or violent behavior** → Refer to ED or crisis services

### No



- ☐ **Refer to outpatient treatment** such as BHG for assessment and ongoing support

## Recommend Referral to BHG If:

- ☒ Patient meets ANY criteria in Steps 1 or 2
- ☒ You are unsure but concerned
- ☒ Patient is open to talking about treatment

*BHG accepts **referrals and walk-in visits** for patients. We offer **fast access to care**, including medication-assisted treatment, counseling, case management and other recovery support services.*

## How to Refer:



- Call our 24/7 Referral Line: **866-763-2244**
- Online: **BHGREcovery.com/refer**
- Walk-ins: Patients can walk in to the nearest BHG location. Visit **BHGREcovery.com/locations**

**Need help deciding? Call us for more information and we can connect you to the best resource.**



For additional resources about OUD, visit [samhsa.gov](https://www.samhsa.gov)

**Disclaimer:** This is meant to be used as a guide and not for official diagnosis of Opioid Use Disorder. All patient referrals and records are protected under HIPAA and 42 CFR Part 2 confidentiality rules. Your referral is private, secure and compliant within federal law.



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