

Do these programs work?

Medication-assisted recoverySM (MAR) for a person with Opioid Use Disorder is much like insulin for a diabetic. In the 1960s, it was found that MAR as part of a recovery program offering supportive services helps restore more natural brain function.

How does the medication work?

In opioid treatment programs there are three FDA-approved medications available to best fit the needs of each patient. There is no scientific information that tells us one medication is better than the others. At a proper dose, the prescribed medication does not make the person feel “drugged” or “high” like other opioids. Each dose lasts for 24 hours and takes away drug cravings. Many people say that they feel “normal” for the first time in a long while.

How long does recovery take?

There is no specific length of time that is best for everyone. The longer someone stays in treatment, the greater the chances for successful recovery. Many persons take medication for a lifetime, and gladly so. After a while, some people decide to try a completely medication-free approach without medication assisted recovery, and then work with their clinical team on safely making that move.

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Opioid Addiction is a disease, not a moral failing.

People start using drugs with addictive potential for various reasons. However, at some point, many become dependent on those drugs both physically and mentally. They are addicted. Cravings and compulsions to use the drugs become daily obsessions. Drug addiction – officially called Substance Use Disorder – is recognized by the American Medical Association and other authorities as a medical disease that upsets normal brain function. Some have compared substance use disorder with other illness, such as diabetes. It doesn't go away on its own and only gets worse without proper treatment.

Opioid Use Disorder (*OUD*) cannot be "cured," but it can be treated so life can go on more normally. A person in a Medication-Assisted RecoverySM program combined with behavioral health and counseling can work or go to school and generally live a better, healthier life.

What is Medication-Assisted RecoverySM (MAR)?

There are medications that can be used to help treat the withdrawal and the cravings that keep a person using. These medications are safe, effective, and approved by the federal government. It's important to know that medications aren't the treatment, they just assist the treatment. Recovery is the goal, treatment is how you get there, and medication makes treatment possible.

Choose what works best for your recovery.

Receive medication at your BHG treatment center or get a prescription for medication to fill at your nearest pharmacy. With each option, you'll have the guidance of skilled clinicians, counselors, and staff to help you fight back for your life through real recovery.

Changing programs is safe for most patients, so talk to your BHG physician.

	In-clinic Dosing Program	Prescription-based Program
Outpatient program	Yes	Yes
Medications*	methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone	buprenorphine, naltrexone
Counseling is required	Yes	Yes
Delivery of medication	Get your medication at the clinic or take-home doses depending on your progress	Get a prescription for medication to fill at a pharmacy
Considering options for your life and diagnosis	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Abused opioids for more than a yearCurrent tolerance to opioids is very highYou have had multiple prior rehabs and relapsesTried buprenorphine before and found it wasn't very helpfulNeed daily support early in treatmentYou are pregnant	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Have abused opioids for any length of timeThis may be your first or second attempt at treatmentYour job requires frequent trips out of townYou don't have ongoing pain management concerns