

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](tel: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**

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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