

OSTI - Guide to assessing treatment needs of patients who misuse opioids

(Reviewed/approved by Dan Mullin 1.29.2018)

Questions that can help assess patient's use of opioids:

- 1) Have you ever taken prescription pain medication that was not yours?
- 2) Have you ever taken more prescription medication than was recommended? For example, taking 8 pills per day when 4 pills were prescribed.
- 3) Have you ever taken prescription pain medication to help with symptoms other than your pain? For example if you were sad or could not relax?
- 4) Have you ever taken so many pain pills that you needed to go to the emergency room or receive medication to revive you?
- 5) Have you ever used heroin?
- 6) Have you ever used opioids, not for pain, but to avoid getting sick with withdrawal symptoms? (You may need list examples of withdrawal symptoms)
- 7) Have you ever taken buprenorphine/suboxone that wasn't prescribed to you?

Questions that can help assess readiness for treatment options?

- 1) Would you be interested in being evaluated for a buprenorphine treatment program?
- 2) Have you ever been in a treatment program for opioids, with medications such as methadone/buprenorphine/naltrexone?
- 3) Did the program help you reduce your use of opioids? And if so, would you be interested in such a program again?
- 4) Have you ever been in a hospital, or "detox", or treatment program for opioids, and would you consider such a program again?

Does the patient have a history of misusing opioids?

No

Educate patient about risks/benefits of opioids

Yes

Has the patient ever overdosed on opioids?

No

Has the patient used opioids to avoid symptoms of opioid withdrawal?

No

Has patient previously been enrolled in a treatment program with methadone/buprenorphine/naltrexone?

No

Connect patient with counseling services for opioid misuse

Yes

During most recent enrollment in a treatment program did the patient reduce their use of illicit opioids?

Yes

Connect patient for an evaluation for a methadone/buprenorphine/naltrexone program

No

Connect patient with evaluation for inpatient/residential treatment