

Survey to Chief APOs

Issue: MAT

Question (from Allegheny County)

Does your agency or Court have any general policies related to the use of MATs?

- **If so, would you mind sharing the policy?**
- **If not, do you have any intentions of creating an MAT policy?**

Beaver County

No policy; no intention to create one

Blair County

No policy; no plan to create one

Cambria County

No policy; no plan to create one

Carbon County

No policy; no plans to create one

Lancaster County

(See addendums) The MAT policy only applies to Drug court participants and separate policy for Veteran's Court participants.

Lehigh County

No policy; we don't have a plan to create a policy

Luzerne County

No policy

Schuylkill County

No policy

Westmoreland County

No policy; no plan to create one

Wyoming & Sullivan Counties

No policy; no plan

York County

See addendum

POLICY ON NARCOTIC MEDICATIONS

Due to the high potential of narcotic medications to interfere with treatment and recovery efforts, Lancaster County Drug Treatment Court prohibits the use of all addictive medications. This includes a policy of prohibiting the use of narcotic pain medications, (such as Vicodin, Percocet, Oxycontin, etc.), muscle relaxers (such as Flexoril, etc), sleep aids (such as Soma, Ambien, etc), caffeine pills and the use of narcotic anxiolytic/benzodiazepine medications (such as Xanax, Klonopin, Valium, etc.).

Applicants seeking entry into the Lancaster County Drug Court Program are expected to consult with their treating physician and/or psychiatrist to seek non-addictive medications with no abuse potential to treat conditions such as chronic pain and anxiety. Participants using such medications while participating in the program are subject to sanctions.

Exceptions to this policy are made only in rare occasions, with the case of *documented* medical emergency treatment by a primary care physician. Participants who habitually seek exception to this policy are subject to increased sanctions and/or termination.

Additionally, no participant of the Lancaster County Drug Court may take any dietary supplements or vitamins, as they may contain substances that would alter the normal color of urine or cause a positive drug test for illegal substances, **without expressed permission**. This includes but is not limited to specific vitamins, multivitamins, weight loss aids, or any other dietary supplement. The consumption of poppy seeds is strictly prohibited while in the program. Lastly, salvia, morning glory seeds or any other such mood altering or hallucinogenic substance is strictly prohibited.

POLICY ON MEDICATION ASSISTED Treatment (MAT)

The Veterans Court seeks to utilize evidence based treatment options found to be available and potentially helpful for participants of the court. The court accepts that physician prescribed treatment known as MAT can increase the likelihood of reducing and/or discontinuing opioid and alcohol use among our Veterans Court participants who voluntarily agree.

Therefore the Veterans court will endeavor to abide by the recommendations of the National Association of Drug Court Professional Resolution of the Board of Directors (07/17/2011) as it pertains to MAT.

Toward this end, the following guidelines in addition to existing medication guideline policies will prevail.

- MAT will only be permitted from prior court approved providers of service that comply with the court's established standards for reporting and ongoing communication. A Provider's continued status as an approved provider will be contingent upon demonstrating these standards,
- The initial clinical assessment process with Court approved treatment providers will include an assessment for a history and current risk for substance abuse, and or dependence. Clinical staff within the court and partner treatment programs must be knowledgeable and open to all treatment modalities including though not limited to MAT,
- MAT will be an accepted option provided simultaneous counseling and other recommended support services occur with the same approved prescribing provider,
- The Veterans Court will rely on the expertise of partnered service providers for evidence based treatment recommendations,
- Whereas the Veterans Court requires participant adherence to all treatment recommendations, the court will neither withhold nor mandate treatment as a sanction,
- The Veterans Court will expect all MAT providers just as other medical providers to use effective medications with the lowest risk of abuse for the treatment of addiction disorders and or co-occurring disorders,
- The Veterans Court will expect the provider to discontinue MATs that are abused or diverted after the Veterans Court and provider team have concluded that efforts to increase compliance have been exhausted and
- Whereas all Veterans Court participants are subject to the general guidelines for drug testing, MAT participants who are administered buprenorphine or methadone may be drug tested specifically for these medications (results will not appear as "morphine" positive). Positive results are expected for these tests, and clearly should not be considered a "violation" of program guidelines. In contrast, negative results may indicate medication diversion, a laboratory error, or that the person is taking a low dose of medication and subject for review with both the Veterans Court participant and the prescribing physician.

Medication Assisted Treatment Policy for the York County Wellness Courts

The York County Wellness Courts recognize the severe impact of opioid addiction on program participants. Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) is recognized as an effective treatment modality for individuals struggling with opioid addiction when combined with behavioral or cognitive-based counseling and other support services. The goal is for the court, the MAT prescriber, counseling agencies and support services to work as a team in the best interest of the participant.

The policy of the York County Wellness Courts is to educate all program participants struggling with an opioid addiction at the time of the program referral, on the benefits of MAT. If interested in MAT at any time while in the program, they will be referred and evaluated. If a participant chooses to enroll in MAT, the Wellness Court team will work with the MAT prescriber, the treatment provider, and the certified recovery support specialist to ensure compliance with the medication and counseling.

The approved forms of MAT include: Suboxone/Subutex/Buprenorphine; Vivitrol/Naltrexone; Methadone/Dolophine. Once a participant is prescribed one of the approved MATs, the participant is expected to comply with treatment, as well as taking all doses as prescribed. The Wellness Court Team will work closely with the MAT Team to ensure compliance with medication, the appropriate level of treatment and ancillary services, with the YADAC Case Management Specialist acting as the intermediary in most circumstances to ensure information flows from the Court to the provider and from the provider to the Court. Participants should expect compliance checks with their medications at any time.