

# MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) MYTHS & FACTS

**Myth: MAT just trades one addiction for another.**

**Fact:** MAT bridges the biological and behavioral components of addiction. Research indicates that a combination of medication and behavioral therapies can successfully treat SUDs and help sustain recovery.

**Myth: MAT is only for the short term.**

**Fact:** Research shows that patients on MAT for at least 1-2 years have the greatest rates of long-term success. There is currently no evidence to support benefits from cessation. Patients with long-term abstinence can follow a slow taper schedule under a physician's direction, when free of stressors, to attempt dose reduction or total cessation.

**Myth: The patient's condition is not severe enough to require MAT.**

**Fact:** MAT utilizes a multitude of different medication options (agonists, partial agonists and antagonists) that can be tailored to fit the unique needs of the patient.

**Myth: MAT increases the risk for overdose in patients.**

**Fact:** MAT helps to prevent overdoses from occurring. Even a single use of opioids after detoxification can result in a life-threatening or fatal overdose. Following detoxification, tolerance to the euphoria brought on by opioid use remains higher than tolerance to respiratory depression.

**Myth: Providing MAT will only disrupt and hinder a patient's recovery process.**

**Fact:** MAT has been shown to assist patients in recovery by improving quality of life, level of functioning and the ability to handle stress. Above all, MAT helps reduce mortality while patients begin recovery.

**Myth: There isn't any proof that MAT is better than abstinence.**

**Fact:** MAT is evidence-based and is the recommended course of treatment for opioid addiction. Multiple credible agencies emphasize MAT as first line treatment:

- The National Institute on Drug Abuse
- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
- National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention



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# MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT) PROGRAMS



## WHAT IS MEDICATION ASSISTED TREATMENT (MAT)?

- Utilizes prescribed medications that operate to normalize brain chemistry
- Primarily used for Opioid Use Disorder & Alcohol Use Disorder
- Blocks the euphoric effects of alcohol and opioids
- Relieves cravings
- Reduces/relieves withdrawal symptoms with some medications
- Used in combination with behavioral health therapies for a whole person approach

### FDA approved medications for MAT:

- Suboxone (oral Buprenorphine/Naloxone)
- Sublocade (injectable Suboxone)
- Vivitrol (injectable Naltrexone)

The logo for Suboxone, featuring the word "Suboxone" in a blue, sans-serif font with a green and yellow swoosh above the 'e'.The logo for Sublocade, featuring the word "Sublocade" in a blue, sans-serif font with a red and blue swoosh above the 'a'.The logo for Vivitrol, featuring the word "Vivitrol" in a blue, sans-serif font with a green swoosh above the 'i'.

## SUMMITSTONE MAT PROGRAMS

### Fort Collins MAT options:

- SummitStone's Centre Clinic
- Rapid Access at Crisis Stabilization Unit (CSU)
- Withdrawal management/inductions offered immediately at Behavioral Health Urgent Care (BHUC) and the CSU
- No appointment necessary at BHUC open every day 8 a.m. to midnight

### Loveland options offered in Partnership with Sunrise Community Health Center:

- Sunrise Clinic at Loveland Community Health Center (LCHC) at SummitStone's Wilson Ave. location
- Clients will also receive primary care services with Sunrise to engage in ongoing MAT services

### Options for all clients include:

- Multiple service options are available at various locations, days and times (Monday-Friday)
- Clients are encouraged to participate in behavioral health services, including enhanced intensive outpatient treatment
- We provide a team approach to care and offer weekly, biweekly, then monthly appointments with medical and behavioral health providers, as well as monthly medication refill group options
- Funding available for under-insured/uninsured clients who are Larimer County residents

## CONTACT INFORMATION AND RESOURCES

### SummitStone MAT Teams

Fort Collins: (970) 494-4306

Loveland: (970) 494-9956

### SummitStone Health Partners Crisis Services

(970) 494-4200 ext. 4

### Colorado Crisis Services

1-844-493-8255 or text "TALK" to 38255

### CO-SLAW (Colorado Opioid Synergy - Larimer & Weld counties)

- A network of MAT clinics that offer medication assisted treatment and counseling services
- Confidential Care, individualized to fit your needs
- Free Care Coordinators can assist you with accessing services, reducing barriers (transportation, housing and other assistance) and partnering with you in your recovery
- **1-844-944-7529** - A direct line to get connected with a care coordinator to assist with finding MAT services that work best for you and your family