



WHAT IS MAT?

Medication-assisted treatment (MAT) is the use of medications with counseling and behavioral therapies to treat substance use disorders and prevent opioid overdose. MAT is primarily used for the treatment of addiction to opioids such as heroin and prescription pain relievers that contain opiates, but MAT can also help with the treatment of alcohol dependency. The prescribed medication operates to normalize brain chemistry, block the euphoric effects of alcohol and opioids, relieve physiological cravings, and normalize body functions without the negative effects of the abused drug. Medications used in MAT are approved by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and MAT programs are clinically driven and tailored to meet each patient's needs.

MAT ACCESS IN YOUR COMMUNITY

KCS Health Center offers wrap-around MAT services assessable to **anyone** (aged 14+) on a walk-in basis in their Buena Park, Garden Grove, Anaheim, and Irvine clinics.

Benefits of MAT: MAT has proven effective in helping both youth and adult patients recover from opiate addiction. When prescribed and monitored properly, methadone and buprenorphine are safe, cost-effective, and greatly reduce the risk of overdose. Other benefits include the following: increased patients' retention in treatment, improved social functioning, lower risks of infectious-disease transmission through avoidance of illicitly obtained injectable drugs, and reduction in criminal activities.



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