

Risk Reduction and Overdose Prevention in Opioid Prescribing

A Harm Reduction Approach to Opioid Use Disorder

Addiction is a chronic disease of the brain that requires chronic, long-term treatment. Return to drug use, or relapse, is an expected part of the disease course. Patients can return to use despite their best intentions to remain in treatment. As compassionate providers, informed by evidence and best clinical practices, we are obliged to care for all of our patients with opioid use disorder by offering patient-centered treatment and minimizing potential harms associated with drug use. This is called a harm reduction approach. We can minimize harms by doing the following:

