

# Opioid & Substance Use Disorders

May 2023

## Words matter when talking about substance use.

What you say can reduce stigma and remove barriers to effective treatment.

Focus on the person and their strengths and skills.

Use these terms when talking about opioid and substance use with your patients.

People with lived  
experience of  
substance use

Opioid agonist treatment

Illegally produced  
drugs or opioids

Recurrence of use

Negative or positive urine  
toxicology or drug screen

Opioid use disorder

Treatment attempt

Experienced barriers  
to treatment

Patient-initiated discharge

