



NEWS RELEASE

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NAATP Provides Industry Position on Medically Assisted Addiction Treatment as a Component of a Holistic Continuum of Care and Stresses System Integration

In response to recent press coverage regarding the use of Medically Assisted Treatment (MAT) in the care and treatment of addiction / substance abuse disorder (SUD), the National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP) is pleased to provide this statement describing its position on MAT in the treatment of SUD. NAATP, founded in 1978, is a professional membership and advocacy organization dedicated to guiding and serving addiction treatment providers and promoting sound policy and best practices in the treatment of addiction. NAATP members include approximately 300 addiction treatment programs comprising approximately 600 addiction treatment centers.

NAATP supports the use of evidence based and time tested methods for the treatment of SUD. NAATP believes that addiction is a chronic disease and supports the use of individualized, multifaceted, multiphasic, interdisciplinary service provided along a continuum of care. This care includes bio-psycho-social care and MAT used as part of a combined holistic treatment approach. NAATP members have long endorsed this model including, contrary to recent news reports, the use of MAT. NAATP believes that MAT, used in conjunction with bio-psycho-social care, including 12-step care and peer driven support, provide patients with the best chances for recovery.

NAATP Executive Director Marvin Ventrell said, “NAATP is pleased with the recent focus and attention on addiction treatment. We have been waiting for this momentum for a long time. It is essential, now, that we get it right, that we integrate rather than isolate systems of care, including MAT and bio-psycho-social care. Our industry embraces this approach. A good example of that is NAATP member Hazelden Betty Ford Foundation’s publication, *Integrating the Twelve Steps with Medically-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder*. This is all part of a Recovery Oriented System of Care and that is the kind of thinking and approach we need now.”

NAATP’s Value Statement, adopted following the Nashville Summit in 2013, provides further guidance on the importance of multiple and integrated responses to SUD.

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See the *NAATP Values Statement* on the following page.



*NAATP Values Statement*¹

- We value the history of significant contributions made by 12-step abstinence based treatment to the sobriety of over twenty million Americans in recovery.
- We value residential treatment's vital, necessary and essential place in the full continuum of care as a viable choice for the treatment of the disease of addiction.
- We value a comprehensive model of care that addresses the medical, bio-psycho-social and spiritual needs of individuals and families impacted by the disease of addiction.
- We value research driven, evidence based treatment interventions that integrate the sciences of medicine, therapy and spirituality. (For example, pharmaceutical interventions including medications for reducing craving and withdrawal symptoms; psychosocial interventions including cognitive behavioral therapy and motivational interviewing; spiritual interventions including Twelve Step facilitated therapy and mindfulness meditation; behavioral interventions including nutrition and exercise).
- We value abstinence from all abusable drugs as an optimal component of wellness and lifelong recovery. Depending on bio-psycho-social and economic factors, there may be persons who might require medication assisted treatment for extended periods of time and perhaps indefinitely. However, medication alone is never sufficient to maintain long term recovery.
- We value outcome data that assesses the efficacy of treatment interventions.
- We value education and training that promotes understanding of a continuum of care that embraces these values.

¹ The *NAATP Values Statement* is based on language developed at the Nashville Summit, adopted by the NAATP Board of Directors on May 18, 2013.