

Opioid Use Disorder: A Modern Framework for Primary Care

Fentanyl drives over 70% of opioid overdose deaths.

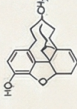
OUD is a treatable, chronic medical condition.

It is characterized by compulsive use and brain changes, similar to diabetes or asthma.

THE PARADIGM SHIFT:
Understanding OUD as a Disease

The U.S. overdose crisis has evolved from prescription opioids to illicitly manufactured fentanyl.

High potency (50-100x morphine)



Its high potency makes traditional treatment initiation more complex.

Fentanyl requires new, flexible strategies.

THE EVIDENCE-BASED CLINICAL RESPONSE

MAT reduces mortality by over 50%

Buprenorphine and methadone are first-line treatments proven to save lives.

Harm reduction is the standard of care.



Distributing naloxone and fentanyl test strips is endorsed by the CDC, SAMHSA, and ASAM.

OUD physically alters brain circuits.

It disrupts reward, stress, and executive function pathways, reinforcing compulsive use.

