

# Opioid Use Disorder: Defined

An **opioid use disorder** is defined as a problematic pattern of opioid use that leads to clinically significant impairment or distress.

Doctors use a specific set of criteria to determine if a person has a substance use problem. To be diagnosed with an **opioid use disorder**, a person must have **2 or more** of the following symptoms within a 12-month period of time.

An opioid use disorder may be **mild, moderate, or severe**:

**Mild:** 2-3 symptoms    **Moderate:** 4-5 symptoms    **Severe:** 6+ symptoms

**Source:** American Psychiatric Association. (2013). Substance Use Disorders. In *Diagnostic and statistical manual of mental disorders* (5th ed.). Arlington, VA: American Psychiatric Publishing

# Opioid Use Disorder: Symptoms

<b>1</b>	Substance taken in larger amounts or for a longer time than intended	“I didn’t mean to start using so much.”
<b>2</b>	Persistent desire or unsuccessful effort to cut down or control use of a substance	“I’ve tried to stop a few times before, but I start using this drug again every time.”
<b>3</b>	Great deal of time spent obtaining, using, or recovering from substance use	“Everything I do revolves around using this drug.” (In severe cases, most/all of a person’s daily activities may revolve around substance use.)
<b>4</b>	Craving (a strong desire or urge) to use opioids	“I wanted to use so badly, I couldn’t think of anything thing else.”

# Opioid Use Disorder: Symptoms

5	Continued opioid use that causes failures to fulfill major obligations at work, school, or home	“I keep having trouble at work/ have lost the trust of friends and family because of using this drug.”
6	Continued opioid use despite causing recurrent social or personal problems	“I can’t stop using, even though it’s causing problems with my friends/family/boss/landlord.”
7	Important social, occupational, or recreational activities are reduced because of opioid use	“I’ve stopped seeing my friends and family, and have given up my favorite hobby because of drugs.”

# Opioid Use Disorder: Symptoms

8	Recurrent opioid use in dangerous situations	“I keep doing things that I know are risky and dangerous to buy or use this drug.”
9	Continued opioid use despite related physical or psychological problems	“I know that using this drug causes me to feel badly/ messes with my mind, but I still use anyway.”
10	<b>Tolerance</b> (the need to take higher doses of a substance to feel the same effects, or a reduced effect from the same amount)	“I have to take more and more of the drug to feel the same high.”
11	<b>Withdrawal</b> (the experience of pain or other uncomfortable symptoms in the absence of a substance)	“When I stop using the drug for a while, I’m in a lot of pain.”

# PREVENTION – Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

**PRIMARY** Designed to prevent a disease or condition from occurring in the first place.

**Education and Community intervention:** Prescribing practices, safe use of prescriptions, control supply, prevent diversion, reduce marketing, enrollment and use of PMP, integrating care.

**SECONDARY** Identifies a disease at its earliest stage, so it reduces the impact of the disease.

**Intervention and Treatment:** Screening, safe storage, safe disposal, early identification, Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT)

**TERTIARY** Reduce the consequences of established disease as well as strive for cure.

**Emergency Response:** Naloxone, Good Samaritan Laws, Syringe Exchange, transitions of care, discharge planning, fentanyl alerts, infectious disease control