<http://www.aca.org/ACA_Prod_IMIS/DOCS/ACA-ASAM%20Press%20Release%20and%20Joint%20Policy%20Statement%203.20.18.pdf>

**ACA and ASAM Joint Policy on OUD Rx in Justice System**

The American Correctional Association has joined with the American Society of Addiction Medicine to issue a Correctional Policy on the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorders for Justice Involved Individuals March 2018. It calls for screening all persons admitted to jails or prisons for drug use for long term treatment for those with opioid use disorder (OUD) and with co-occurring OUD and mental disorders. If already on OUD, they should be evaluated for continued treatment on that medication. If experiencing withdrawal, they should be provided with medically managed detoxification, using validated withdrawal scales and suggests medications that have been shown to improve withdrawal symptoms. Four to six weeks before release all should be re-assessed for medication-assisted treatment and it should be provided if desired and appropriate. MAT should not be mandated. Upon release, inmates should be educated about the risk of overdose and death, including how to obtain and use naloxone. Ideally, the inmate’s family should receive similar training. There should be an immediate hand off to community treatment providers set up 1 to 2 months prior to release. The policy includes the admonition that correctional staffs should be educated about OUD and its treatment, including the role of stigma as a barrier to treatment.