







New Guidelines for Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails

Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA)
Residential Substance Abuse Treatment (RSAT)
Program for State Prisoners
Training and Technical Assistance Resource

This project was supported by grant No.15PBJA-22-GK-01132-RSAT awarded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance. The Bureau of Justice Assistance is a component of the Office of Justice Programs, which also includes the Bureau of Justice Statistics, the National Institute of Justice, the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, the SMART Office, and the Office for Victims of Crime. Point of view or opinions in this document are those of the author and do not represent the official position or policies of the United States Department of Justice.



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Today's Speaker



Linda J. Frazier, M.A., RN, MCHES
Principal Consultant, Addictions
Advocates for Human Potential, Inc.

Learning Objectives

Upon completion of this presentation, participants will be able to:

- Provide an overview of key components of the substance withdrawal guidelines.
- Describe the decision process related to the care of an individual at risk of withdrawal in jail.
- Discuss implementation strategies and resources to support jails and communities.

The Guidelines

Substance-related Deaths

- 397% increase in the number of individuals in jails who died from drug or alcohol “intoxication,” 2000–2019.
 - 33% increase in the number of individuals who died from all causes during the same period.
- Median time in jail before death from alcohol or drug intoxication: 1 day.

Carson, E. Ann. 2021. “Mortality in Local Jails, 2000-2019—Statistical Tables.” Bureau of Justice Statistics Statistical Tables. Washington, D.C. : US Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Statistics. <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/mlj0019st.pdf>.

Withdrawal-related Deaths in Jail

- 64% involved alcohol.
- 20% involved opioids.
- 16% did not identify the substance.

Fiscella, K., M. Noonan, S. Leonard, S Farah, M. Sanders, S. Wakeman, and J. Savolainen. 2020. "Drug- and Alcohol-associated Deaths in U.S. Jails." *Journal of Correctional Health Care* 26(2): 183-193. doi: 10.1177/1078345820917356.

A Collective Response

The identified partners developed guidelines with an expert committee to assist local government officials, jail administrators, correctional officers, and health care professionals in the detection and proper management of acute withdrawal from substances among individuals in custody.



Advocates for
Human Potential, Inc.





GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING SUBSTANCE WITHDRAWAL IN JAILS

A Tool for Local Government Officials, Jail Administrators,
Correctional Officers, and Health Care Professionals

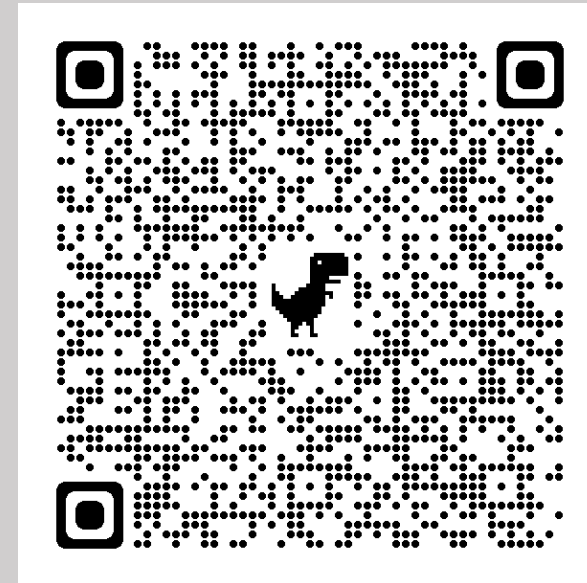
June 2023



BJA
Bureau of Justice Assistance
U.S. Department of Justice



NIC
National Institute of Corrections



Language

Clinically correct and non-stigmatizing language promotes understanding of SUD as a complex medical condition.



Content of Guidelines



General Guidance



Alcohol Withdrawal



Sedative-Hypnotic Withdrawal



Opioid Withdrawal



Stimulant Withdrawal

General Guidance

Screening to flag withdrawal risk

Monitoring for withdrawal signs and symptoms

Clinical assessment and diagnosis

Level of care

Withdrawal management by qualified health care professionals

Monitoring patients during withdrawal management

Medications

Staffing and staff training

Quality assurance

Supportive care

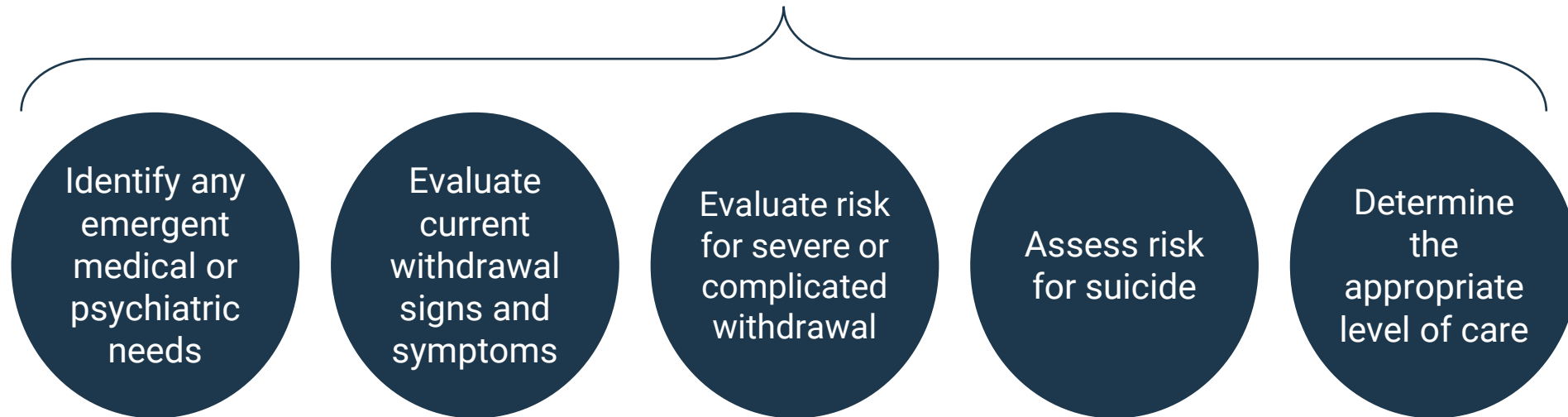
Reentry

Special populations

Sample Recommendations

Clinical Assessment and Diagnosis

- All individuals who are referred for immediate clinical assessment for substance withdrawal should be assessed by a qualified health care professional.
- The initial clinical assessment should:



Sample Recommendations

Screening

- All individuals, regardless of their length of stay in jail, should be screened for risk of withdrawal.
- Screening will help identify individuals in need of immediate clinical assessment, including anyone who:

Reports or is known to have used alcohol or sedatives recently, regularly, and heavily.

Reports using alcohol or sedatives in the past week and reports a history of complicated withdrawal.

Is known to be pregnant and screens positive for alcohol or opioid use.

Sample Recommendations

Staffing and Staff Training

- To support management of substance withdrawal, it is recommended that jails, at minimum, have 24-hour, on-call clinical support (at minimum, a registered nurse). This can be accomplished through any combination of onsite health care staff, remote coverage, telehealth services, and/or transfer to facilities that can provide a higher level of care.



Withdrawal Pharmacotherapy

Substance	Recommended Pharmacotherapy
Alcohol	Benzodiazepines, long-acting preferred (i.e., diazepam or chlordiazepoxide), except for older adults or individuals with impaired liver function
Opioid	Methadone or buprenorphine
Sedatives	Long-acting benzodiazepine (e.g., clonazepam)

Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Treatment

Continuation or Initiation

- Associated with decreased opioid use post-release.
- Decreases morbidity and mortality.
- Increases treatment continuation.

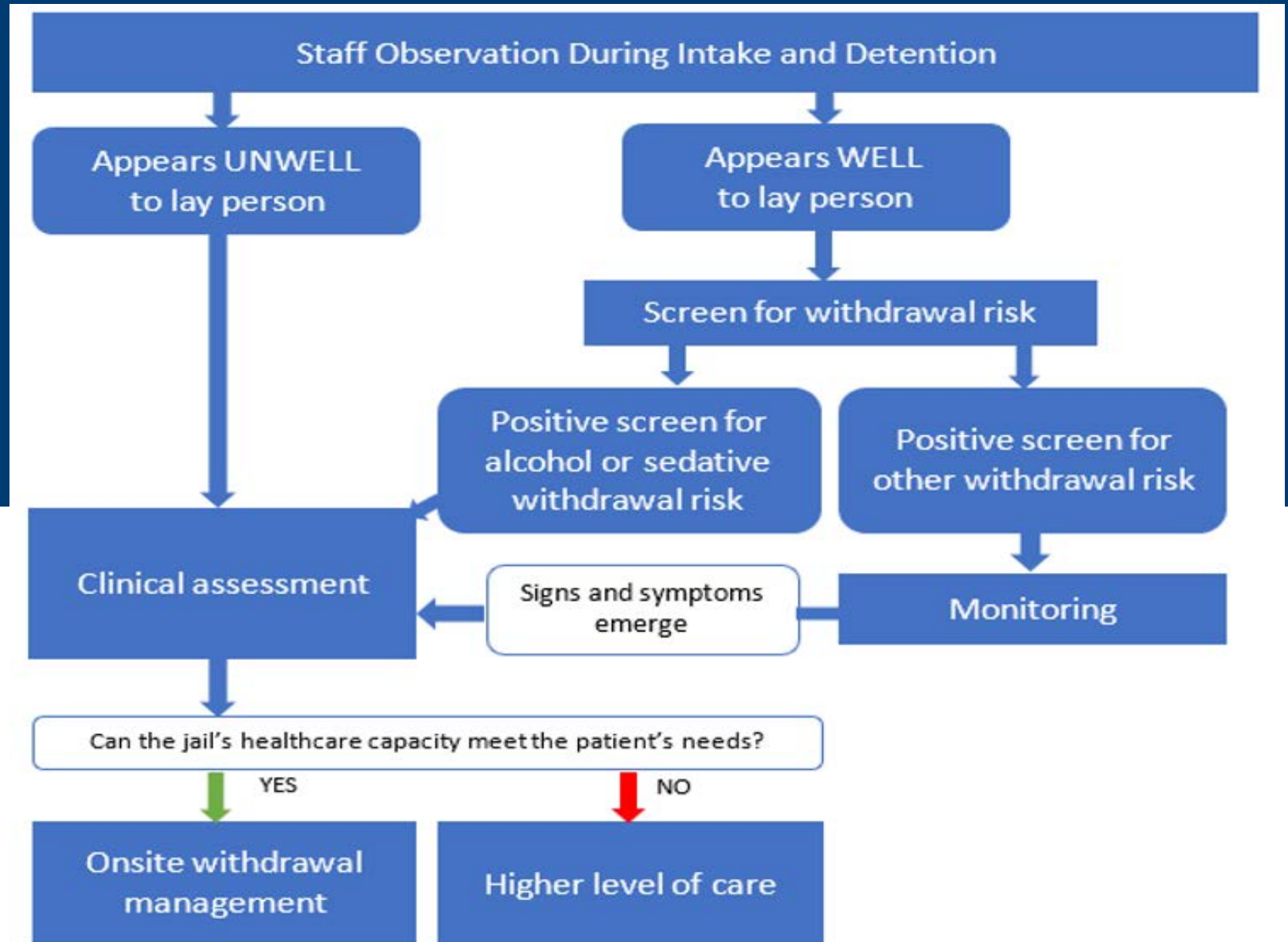
Cates L, Brown AR. Medications for opioid use disorder during incarceration and post-release outcomes. *Health Justice*. 2023 Feb 4;11(1):4. doi: 10.1186/s40352-023-00209-w. PMID: 36737503; PMCID: PMC9898706.

Green, T., J. Clarke, L. Brinkley-Rubinstein, B. Marshall, N. Alexander-Scott, R. Boss, and J. Rich. 2018. "Postincarceration Fatal Overdoses after Implementing Medications for Addiction Treatment in a Statewide Correctional System." *JAMA Psychiatry* 75(4):405-407. doi: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2017.4614.

Lim S, Cherian T, Katyal M, Goldfeld KS, McDonald R, Wiewel E, Khan M, Krawczyk N, Braunstein S, Murphy SM, Jalali A, Jeng PJ, MacDonald R, Lee JD. Association between jail-based methadone or buprenorphine treatment for opioid use disorder and overdose mortality after release from New York City jails 2011-17. *Addiction*. 2023 Mar;118(3):459-467. doi: 10.1111/add.16071. Epub 2022 Nov 16. PMID: 36305669; PMCID: PMC9898114.

Implementing the Guidelines

Substance Withdrawal Management Process



Continuum of Guidelines Implementation

Minimal Resources

Moderate Resources

High Resources



How to Use the Guidelines

- Support conversations at the community level on matters related to screening, transferring, monitoring, treating people with substance use disorders and managing reentry.
- Assess current policies and practice in your community/jail.
- Educate and train custody and health care staff.

Resources and References

<https://www.cossup.org/Topics/CourtsCorrections/JailResources/Guidelines>



The screenshot displays the Cossup website header with the logo and navigation menu. The main content area features a large title and a horizontal menu of links.

Cossup
Comprehensive Opioid, Stimulant,
and Substance Use Program

Program **Topics** **Learn** **Resource Library**

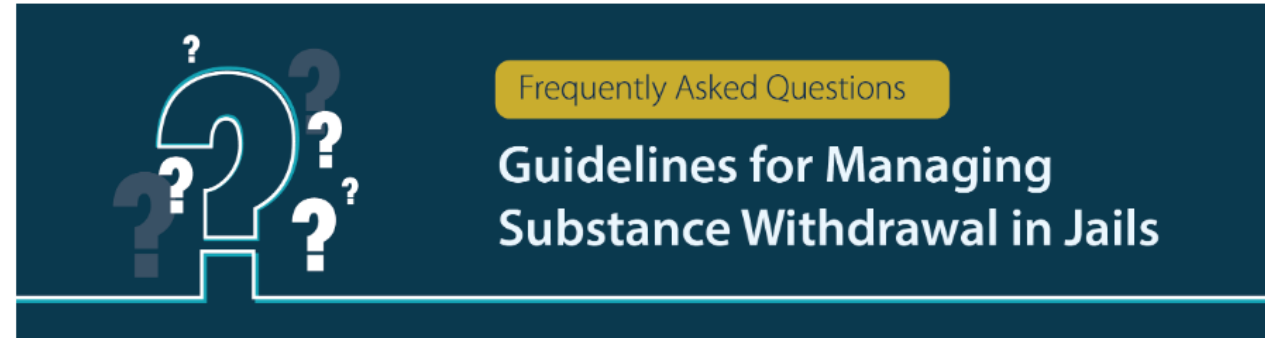
GUIDELINES FOR MANAGING SUBSTANCE WITHDRAWAL IN JAILS

GUIDELINES GET THE FACTS LEARN MORE DEVELOPMENT PROCESS TTA RESOURCES

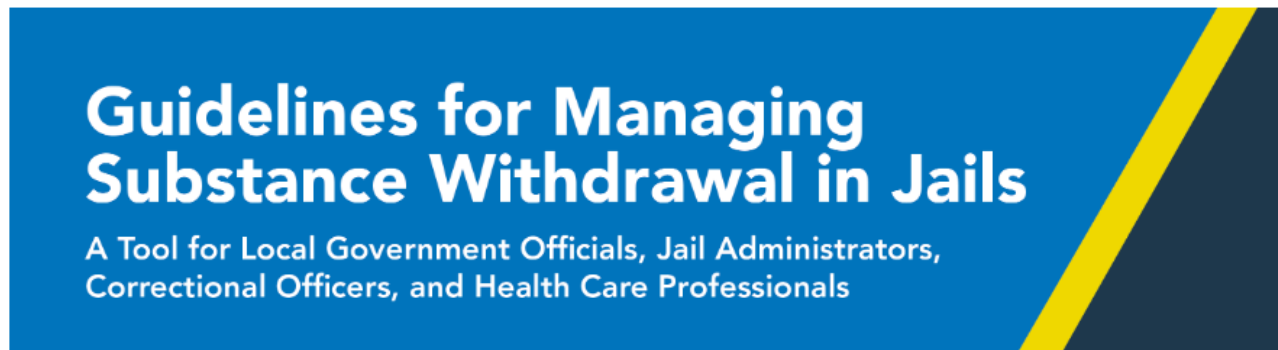
Resources and References

Guidelines Frequently Asked Questions

https://www.cossup.org/Content/Documents/JailResources/Guidelines_FAQ.pdf



Guidelines Overview Fact Sheet



https://www.cossup.org/Content/Documents/JailResources/Fact_Sheet_Guidelines_for_Withdrawal_Management_in_Jails-Final.pdf

Resources and References: Federal Guidance

Bureau of Justice Assistance

- [Managing Substance Withdrawal in Jails: A Legal Brief](#)

U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division

- [The Americans with Disabilities Act and the Opioid Crisis: Combatting Discrimination Against People Treatment or Recovery](#)

Resources and References

Non-Stigmatizing Language

National Institutes of Health, National Institute on Drug Abuse

- [Words Matter: Preferred Language for Talking About Addiction](#)

Justice Community Opioid Innovation Network (JCOIN)

- [Advancing the Use of Person-First and Non-Stigmatizing Language](#)

Withdrawal Pharmacology

American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)

- [The ASAM Clinical Practice Guideline on Alcohol Withdrawal Management](#)
- [The ASAM National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder](#)

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

- [TIP 45: Detoxification and Substance Abuse Treatment](#)

References and Resources

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QUESTIONS

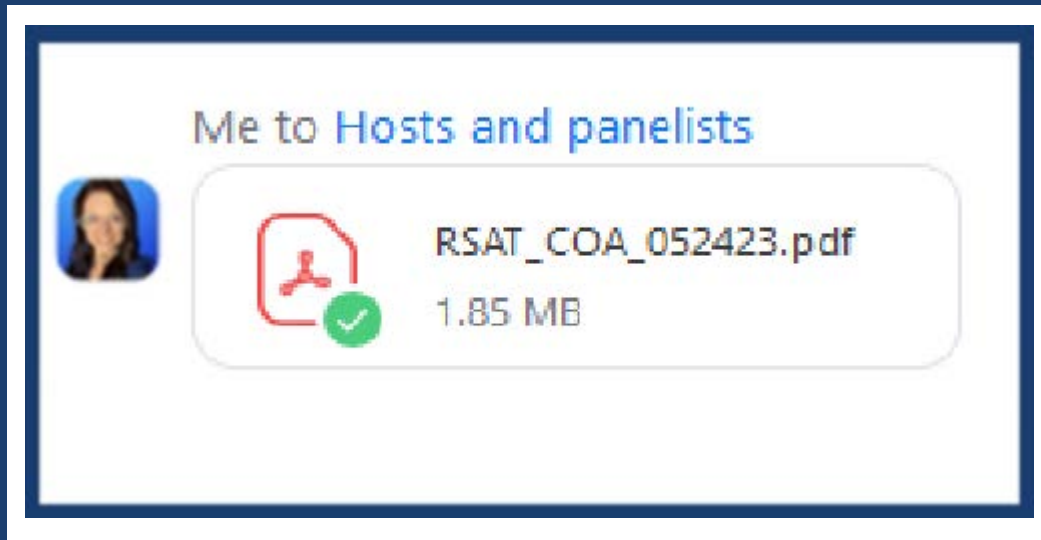
- ▶ Type your questions in the Q&A box on your screen.



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CERTIFICATE OF CONTINUING EDUCATION



1 Continuing Education Hour (CEH) approved by NAADAC, the Association of Addiction Professionals



Pass 10-question quiz with 7 correct answers



Download certificate upon completion of the quiz

January 17, 2024 RSAT webinar CEH quiz link:

<https://survey.alchemer.com/s3/7674384/January-17-2024-RSAT-Webinar-CEH>

CONTACT



<http://www.rsat-tta.com>



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