



The College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP) pledges support for the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic and its goal of expanding interdisciplinary and cross-sector networks dedicated to reversing national trends in opioid misuse and overdose.

CPNP is a professional association of over 1500 advanced practice clinical pharmacists who specialize in the treatment of individuals living with psychiatric, neurologic, and substance use disorders. Psychiatric pharmacists prescribe or recommend appropriate medications as allowed by state law and practice site, manage medications, evaluate responses and modify treatments, resolve drug interactions or adverse reactions, and provide medication education.

Psychiatric pharmacists are advanced practice clinical pharmacists committed to being part of an interdisciplinary team treating substance use disorders most often in combination with serious mental illness. Co-occurring substance abuse problems and mental health issues are common with roughly 50 percent of individuals living with comorbid severe mental illness and substance use disorders.

CPNP is committed to growing and educating the opioid use disorder treatment workforce. CPNP members have authored numerous [substance use disorder toolkits, documents, and educational activities](#) to further the knowledge of pharmacists and other health care professionals. These include:

1. Numerous disease state specific treatment toolkits and webinars including a useful guide on [opioid use disorder: medication management](#) and another for [opioid use disorder: community pharmacist interventions](#).
2. A dedicated substance use disorder track at our [annual meeting](#) as well as additional programming such as a [2018 pre-meeting workshop](#) on the role of the pharmacist in MAT
3. An [issue brief](#) to policymakers, other health care professionals, and legislators about the important role of the pharmacist in increasing access to care in the treatment of substance use disorders
4. An online opioid use disorder curriculum for pharmacists engaged with or wishing to learn more about MAT treatment that will launch in late 2019. A secondary goal is to launch a MAT implementation toolkit to assist pharmacists desiring to establish a MAT practice in collaboration with a team of health care providers.

As a member of the NAMI Action Collaborative, CPNP looks forward to enabling comprehensive solutions to this public health crisis.