

Starting Methadone in the ED

Contact ED substance use navigator/hospital to home coordinator if available.

Methadone and buprenorphine are both first line treatments for OUD. Initiating methadone in the ED is an alternative for patients who use fentanyl and are not candidates for/decline buprenorphine and for whom delays in treatment pose significant risk.

*Methadone should not be initiated immediately following naloxone reversal of overdose involving methadone.

*Any methadone administration requires confirmation of previous doses. Engage pharmacy team whenever possible.

Patient presents with opioid withdrawal from fentanyl use, or complication of fentanyl use (skin/soft tissue infection, abscess, endocarditis)

