

## RAAM Clinic Toolkit

# CONSULTATION LETTER FOR TRANSFERRING SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER CARE TO PRIMARY CARE<sup>1</sup>

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This template letter can be adapted to suit the specific needs of your client and community. While the typical recipient of this letter may be a primary care provider, other types of community care providers may be willing and available to take over the client's substance use care, and this letter can be adapted accordingly. Further, the language and suggested resources should be personalized per the referring care provider's judgment.

[Date]

[Primary care provider name]

[Primary care clinic name]

[Primary care fax number]

Dear [Primary care provider name],

Re: [Client name]

I'm writing to let you know that your client has been started on [medication name] [medication dose] by the [clinic name] RAAM clinic for treatment of [alcohol/opioid use disorder] [(AUD/ODU)]. They pick up their medication [weekly/bi-weekly, etc.], at [pharmacy name].

[Client name] has attended the RAAM clinic since [first RAAM appt date]. [Information about the client's current status and any relevant lab results, e.g. side effects from medication, current patterns of use, cravings currently experienced].

[AUD/ODU] is a chronic condition that has good evidence for treatment within the primary care setting. I would recommend that the patient remain on [medication name] for at least another [timeframe, e.g., six to twelve months]. At that time, you could discuss how they would feel about stopping it. In reassessing for continued use of this medication, I recommend considering the client's current pattern of use, their goals, current cravings, their management of triggers and stressors, social supports, environment, and engagement with counselling.

Please reach out to our clinic if you would like further support. If the client has a slip or their needs change, we would be pleased to reassess them on an urgent basis. Relapse is managed with an adjustment of anti-craving medications, crisis-oriented counselling and connection to community services, and treatment of withdrawal if necessary. I can be reached through the clinic at [RAAM clinic phone number].

Thank you for your consideration. The FAQ below contains some information about managing substance use disorders in primary care.

Sincerely,

[RAAM clinician name]

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<sup>1</sup> Adapted from materials provided courtesy of the RAAM Hub and the Provincial Addiction Medicine Primary Care Steering Committee (Manitoba).