

# Module 10: Treatment of Multiple Substance Use

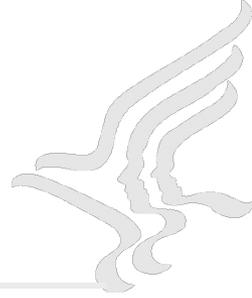
## TIP Chapter 11

- Examine the prevalence of common drug combinations used to treat multiple substance abuse
- Describe the effects of other substances abused by patients in MAT
- Study the management of multiple substance abuse in MAT



# Multiple Substance Abuse

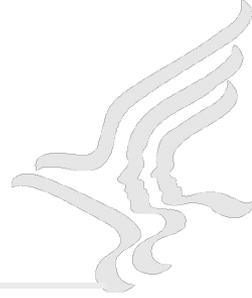
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- Patients in MAT for opioid addiction commonly use alcohol, amphetamines, benzodiazepines, cocaine, and marijuana.
- Patterns of use range from occasional low doses to regular high doses that meet dependence criteria.
- CNS depressants such as alcohol, benzodiazepines, and barbiturates are especially dangerous when used with opioids.

# Multiple Substance Abuse

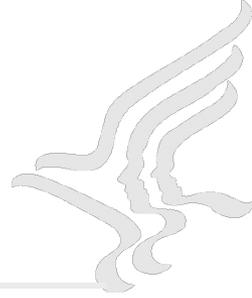
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- Except for naltrexone, the treatment medications used in MAT do not address non-opioid substance use directly.
- Staff members should be trained to recognize the pharmacologic and psychosocial effects of both opioid and non-opioid substances of abuse.
- OTPs should have treatment options available to address multiple substance use either directly or by referral.

# Multiple Substance Abuse

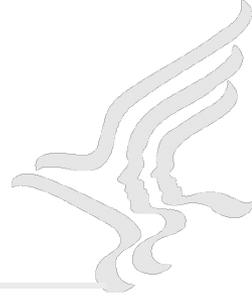
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- Preliminary assessment should determine whether new patients are abusing substances other than opioids. OTPs should then adjust treatment plans and types of services accordingly.
- OTPs should not automatically exclude patients who test positive for illicit drugs other than opioids.
- Treatment providers should treat patients for concurrent substance abuse aggressively or refer them appropriately.
- Providers should try to understand and address underlying causes of concurrent substance use.

# Prevalence of Multiple Substance Abuse

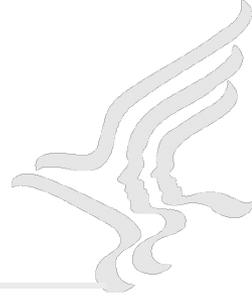
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- According to TEDS, 42.7 percent of patients entering treatment in OTPs in 2000 reported using only heroin.
- Exhibit 11-1 (p. 180 in TIP 43) presents data on heroin and other substances used by patients.
- Proportions of patients using additional drugs and types of drugs used varied by locality, depending primarily on drug availability.
- Rates of cigarette smoking in this population reportedly range from 85 to 92 percent.

# Emergency Room Admissions and Fatalities

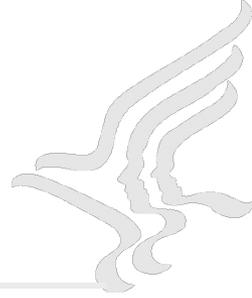
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- In 2001, 93,064 nonfatal admissions mentioned heroin use.
- Of these, 45 percent mentioned concurrent use of alcohol and/or other substances as well as heroin.
- Nearly 90 percent of heroin-related deaths may involve concurrent use of other substances.

# Common Reasons for Drug Combinations

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- Patients have become dependent on the substance along with their opioid addiction.
- Need to self-medicate withdrawal symptoms or uncomfortable affects related to non-substance-induced mental disorders or difficult life situations.
- Patients' initial and continued attraction to drugs may indicate enhancement-avoidance reactions.
- Patients develop unique drug regimens that vary throughout the day.