

Medication Assisted Treatment Policy

The Davidson County General Sessions Recovery Court accepts participants who voluntarily elect Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) as part of their treatment protocol. MAT is the use of medications, in combination with counseling and therapies, to provide a whole-patient approach for substance abuse issues. MAT is an approved therapeutic option for substance abuse that may be used in conjunction with Recovery Court for some participants. MAT costs must be covered through state or federal public funding, Medicaid, private insurance or private pay. Additionally, participants must undergo an assessment to determine whether alternative medications can be appropriately prescribed prior to use while in Recovery Court.

In addition to their MAT procedures, participants will be held to traditional treatment for chemical dependency by the treatment team. In addition to Recovery Court requirements, MAT participants may also be required to attend specifically designed treatment modules used to address recovery issues. Any abuse of the program (i.e., using illicit drugs/alcohol, over-medicating, not following the prescribing physician's regimen/protocols) may result in sanctions, including the possibility of termination from the MAT program or the Davidson County General Sessions Recovery Court.

The use of medication prescribed for addictive disorders have various levels of abuse potential ranging from nonexistent risk (e.g. naltrexone) to high risk of abuse (e.g. methadone) which creates a recovery issue that requires oversight. MAT participants must authorize communication between the Recovery Court Team and all medical professionals writing prescriptions for that participant to guard against the issue of unnecessary drug seeking behavior.

MAT Participant Expectations in Recovery Court

Because Davidson County Recovery Court does not provide direct medical treatment, participants who select MAT as part of their recovery protocol must adhere to the following treatment expectations:

1. Be under the care of a court approved credentialed addiction specialist medical professional (e.g. ASAM or SAMHSA) or physician with advanced knowledge of recovery issues. This medical professional or physician must agree to follow the *Prescriber Expectations for MAT Participants in Recovery Court*.
2. The Participant may utilize only one MAT prescriber and one pharmacy unless specialized treatment is needed as confirmed in writing by the prescriber.
3. Participants must undergo an assessment to determine whether alternative medications can be appropriately prescribed prior to use while in Recovery Court. If alternative medications are not appropriate, compliance management and the risk of diversion must be factored into the decision as to whether the Participant is appropriate to the Recovery Court model. Decisions regarding continued participation in Recovery Court for those receiving such prescriptions will be made on a case by case basis.
4. A copy of the Participant's prescription for MAT medication must be on file with the Recovery Court Team. Any changes in the dosage must be documented by a new prescription filed with the Recovery Court Team and kept in the participant's file.
5. Discontinue medications that are abused or diverted after the participant and/or Recovery Court Team have made reasonable efforts to increase compliance.
6. Demonstrate treatment engagement and program compliance to achieve the goals of sustainable recovery.

Prescriber Expectations for MAT Participants in Recovery Court

1. The MAT prescriber should expect to provide weekly or bi-weekly updates to Recovery Court staff as to the Participant's progress and compliance with MAT treatment at the Recovery Court staff's discretion. If the MAT prescriber proves unwilling to communicate effectively with Recovery Court staff or abide

by other terms of this protocol, the Participant may be instructed to find a new prescriber within a time frame to be determined by Recovery Court staff.

2. The MAT prescriber must deliver to the Recovery Court Program Manager a copy of the Participant's Comprehensive Assessment prepared pursuant to Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0940-05-42-.06 or 0940-05-35-.06. This can be faxed to 615-862-8364.
3. The MAT prescriber must deliver to the Recovery Court Team a copy of the Participant's Individual Program or Treatment Plan prepared pursuant to Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0940-05-42-.11 or 0940-05-35-.09, together with any reviews, changes, or amendments to said plan. Additionally, the MAT prescriber must provide documentation of intensified services following any relapse. This can be faxed to 615-862-8364.
4. At any time, and upon the request of Recovery Court staff, the MAT prescriber must document compliance with any relevant federal or state statute or regulation, and more specifically with those rules and regulations enumerated in Tenn. Comp. R. & Regs. 0940-05-042 and 0940-05-35.

Graduation While Participating in MAT

Prior to graduation, Recovery Court participants must attempt cessation of MAT under the supervision of the MAT prescriber. Following said attempt, if the MAT prescriber determines that the Participant is best served medically by remaining on a maintenance level of MAT medication, this determination must be communicated in writing to the Recovery Court Program Manager.