

DRT/MAT as It Relates to NA

What do we want to say in a piece of NA recovery literature?

Session materials:

- PowerPoint
- Note sheets
- Optional: Copies of PR pamphlet--Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment
(https://www.na.org/admin/include/spaw2/uploads/pdf/pr/2306_NA_PRMAT_1021.pdf).
Also available in other languages here: www.na.org/pr (at bottom of page)
- Optional: Chart paper

Background

Slide 1: Title Slide

The purpose of this workshop is to have a discussion about what to include in a piece of NA literature on “DRT/MAT (Drug Replacement Therapy/Medication-Assisted Treatment) as it Relates to NA.” Following this workshop (or during it if you’re on a connected device), *please* submit your input by filling out the survey posted at na.org/survey. Please use the online form as it helps to collect your input. It will be available until end of November 2022.

Slide 2: Background

The 2018 World Service Conference adopted a motion charging NA World Services with creating a project plan for a new piece of recovery literature for members about DRT/MAT as it relates to NA. Local service bodies workshopped the topic 2018-2020.

In the 2020 *Conference Agenda Report (CAR)* it was reported that although the input from the workshop had raised awareness and offered thoughts about how to better welcome members and potential members, the input did not express what the Fellowship wants to include in a piece of NA recovery literature on this topic. WSC 2020 approved motions “to accept DRT/MAT as it relates to NA—what do we want to say in a piece of NA literature? as our first Issue Discussion Topic” and to approve a Fellowship survey about the topic. And that’s what brings us to the workshop today.

Slide 3: Reading

As medically assisted treatment has become a standard practice for the treatment of addiction, those coming to our rooms are often on DRT/MAT. Our challenge, as a Fellowship, is how to welcome these members and potential members so that they are able to make an informed decision for themselves and come to know that drug free recovery in NA is possible.

You may want to read the PR pamphlet *Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment* before completing the survey.

Here is an excerpt:

We understand that addicts whose path is medically assisted treatment may hear many messages in NA meetings. Some NA meetings make no distinction as to whether those receiving medication to treat addiction may share in a meeting, while other NA meetings limit the participation of those who are taking this type of medication. Each group is free to make its own decision on recovery meeting participation and involvement in group services for those receiving medication assistance for drug addiction.

Slide 4: Two statements to remember.

Here are two statements to keep in mind.

Our Third Tradition reminds us that the only requirement for membership in NA is a desire to stop using.

And from Tradition Ten in *It Works*:

Tradition Ten restricts NA, as a fellowship, from stating opinions on outside issues. However, it places no such restriction on the individual member.

As NA members, we may have many personal opinions about DRT/MAT. NA literature speaks for the Fellowship as a whole, and the first question in the survey asks us to think about that—what do we want NA literature to say.

Survey questions

Slides 5-13

Slides 5-13 contain the text from the survey itself. It is also reproduced on the following pages. It is our hope that reading the questions aloud and engaging in a discussion will help attendees to come to conclusions as to what they believe should be contained in this piece of recovery literature.

There are nine questions on the survey, which is more than you will be able to cover in a workshop. The most important question to cover in the workshop is question #1.

If there is time remaining after a discussion of question #1, you can choose another survey question to discuss.

- Read question #1
- Pause to give participants a moment to jot down their thoughts
- Have a discussion to share responses
- As time permits, move on to another question and do the same.

Chart paper, if available, would allow facilitators to capture ideas and suggestions as they come up in conversation. If the session is being done online, facilitators can capture ideas on-screen if they wish.

Conclusion

Slide 23: Thank you!

Thank you everyone for participating. Please take a moment to submit your input at www.na.org/survey. Also, tell other members, who may not be here, to fill out the survey. NA recovery literature is written by addicts, for addicts.

The survey will be posted and available until 30 November 2022.

Materials for this and other workshops can be found at www.na.org/iddt.

[We hope that workshop facilitators will submit the compiled experience of the group to wb@na.org]

2022 DRT/MAT Survey

Posted on www.na.org/survey through 30 November 2022

The 2018 World Service Conference adopted a motion charging NA World Services with creating a project plan for a new piece of recovery literature for members about DRT/MAT as it relates to NA. This survey is an important step in the process.

As medically assisted treatment has become a standard practice for the treatment of addiction, those coming to our rooms are often on DRT/MAT. Our challenge, as a Fellowship, is how to welcome these members so that they are able to make an informed decision for themselves and come to know that drug free recovery in NA is possible. You may want to read the PR pamphlet *Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment* before completing this survey or holding local discussions. (You can find it posted in seven languages at the bottom of this page www.na.org/pr)

We understand that addicts whose path is medically assisted treatment may hear many messages in NA meetings. Some NA meetings make no distinction as to whether those receiving medication to treat addiction may share in a meeting, while other NA meetings limit the participation of those who are taking this type of medication. Each group is free to make its own decision on recovery meeting participation and involvement in group services for those receiving medication assistance for drug addiction. (PR pamphlet Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment)

As a Fellowship, we have had energetic and interesting discussions that have illustrated the different practices among NA meetings (both virtual and in-person) and service bodies about this issue. The input gathered from the earlier discussions stressed the importance of welcoming all addicts to meetings and encouraging new members to connect with other members to gain an understanding of NA, and it emphasized that NA is a program of complete abstinence. Our Third Tradition reminds us that the only requirement for membership in NA is a desire to stop using.

The World Board has been following this discussion and attempting to gather the Fellowship's thoughts and ideas for what to include in a piece of NA recovery literature about this topic, as we have been asked to do by the WSC.

"Tradition Ten restricts NA, as a fellowship, from stating opinions on outside issues. However, it places no such restriction on the individual member." (It Works, "Tradition Ten") Our hope is that those who receive medication to treat addiction will come to meetings and listen to people who are recovering. Through listening and through asking questions before and after meetings, attendees may gain a better understanding of NA and what it has to offer. NA offers a community and a lifestyle that supports staying clean, and NA may be compatible for addicts on medically assisted protocols if they have a desire to become clean one day. (PR pamphlet Narcotics Anonymous and Persons Receiving Medication-Assisted Treatment)

1. What main points do you think need to be conveyed in a recovery IP about DRT/MAT as it relates to NA? (separating your thoughts and ideas helps us)

Comment

2. How do the meetings you attend welcome those on DRT/MAT?

Comments

3. Does your meeting make any statements about who can or cannot share? Y/N

If yes, what are they?

4. Do you personally believe someone on DRT/MAT should share in an NA meeting? Y/N

Comments

5. Do you have experience sponsoring someone on DRT/MAT? Y or N

Comments

6. Are you willing to sponsor an addict on DRT/MAT? Y or N

Comments

7. Did you come to NA while on DRT/MAT? Y or N

If yes, please share some of your experience and consider providing your email address at the end

8. Do you believe those on DRT/MAT can hold service positions at a meeting level? Y/N

Comments

9. Do you have any additional thoughts about what you believe should be included in a new IP?

Comments

Comments

I am answering this as a:

- Member
- Group or meeting
- Service body

I live in Country pull down State

I am willing to be contacted for more experience if needed: (provide email address)

