

Helpful Resources to Address Discrimination Against People in Medication-Assisted Treatment

May 21, 2009

Discrimination against individuals participating in Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is often the result of ignorance about addiction and how MAT works. Education can be the first step in overcoming such discrimination. The following resources provide useful information with which to educate employers, courts, or others about MAT, including how methadone and buprenorphine do not impair physical or mental functioning when provided to individuals stabilized on the appropriate dose:

- New York State's Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse's 1997 publication, "Driving Performance of Methadone Maintenance Patients,"
- Legal Action Center's 2000 publication, "Methadone Maintenance Treatment: Memorandum on Driving & Psychomotor Studies and Background Information about Methadone Treatment," available on www.lac.org, free publications.
- SAMHSA Health Information Network (SHIN) of the United States Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA): www.samhsa.gov/SHIN
- SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT): www.csat.samhsa.gov
- CSAT's Division of Pharmacologic Therapies (DPT): www.dpt.samhsa.gov
- CSAT's Buprenorphine Information Center: www.buprenorphine.samhsa.gov
- National Alliance for Medication Assisted Recovery (NAMA): www.methadone.org
- National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment (NAABT): www.naabt.org
- American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence, Inc. (AATOD): www.aatod.org
- Patient Support & Community Education Project (PSCEP), www.methadone.net/patient_support_project.htm