



## **FROM HARM REDUCTION TO FULL RECOVERY**

The development of effective treatments for opioid dependence is of great importance given the devastating consequences of the disease. Pharmacotherapies for opioid addiction include opioid agonists, partial agonists, opioid antagonists, and alpha-2-adrenergic agonists, which are targeted toward either detoxification or long-term agonist maintenance. Agonist maintenance therapy is currently the gold standard for opioid dependence. Opioid substitution therapy (OST) has been established as the gold standard in treating opioid use disorders.

Harm Reduction refers to policies, programmes and practices that aim primarily to reduce the adverse health, social and economic consequences of the use of legal and illegal psychoactive drugs without necessarily reducing drug consumption.

The adoption of recovery by behavioral health systems in recent years has signaled a dramatic shift in the expectation for positive outcomes for individuals who experience substance use disorders. Recovery is a process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live self-directed lives, and strive to reach their full potential.

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