



Addiction Medicine: Standardize It.

- Lack of standardization in the treatment and management of patients with substance use disorder (SUD) has undermined our national response to the addiction and overdose crisis.
- Currently, only a fraction of clinicians receives appropriate education on treating SUD.
- Newly introduced legislation would ensure most prescribers of controlled medications receive basic education in treating and managing patients with SUD.

Stigma, discrimination, and lack of understanding about addiction – including within the medical community – have prevented far too many Americans from accessing evidence-based care for this chronic, treatable disease. To address these challenges, we must better equip health professionals across the healthcare continuum to treat SUD – and that starts with standardizing and mainstreaming access to medications for addiction treatment and education on how to integrate the treatment of SUD into medical practice.

According to a recent Shatterproof survey of healthcare providers in Massachusetts, [only 1 in 4 surveyed healthcare providers had received training on addiction during their medical education.](#)

The lack of adequate education in the treatment and management of patients with SUD is particularly acute among prescribers of DEA-controlled medications. Across different clinical settings, these healthcare professionals often interact with and have opportunities to provide effective interventions for individuals with SUD – opportunities to help that are often missed.

How Members of Congress Can Help:

- ☑ Co-sponsor the **Medication Access and Training Expansion (MATE) Act of 2021 (HR 2067)**, legislation designed to ensure most DEA-licensed prescribers have a baseline knowledge of how to treat and manage patients with SUD. **The MATE Act will:**
 - Require controlled medication prescribers (excluding veterinarians and dentists) to attest - on either one initial or renewal DEA application - that they are an addiction specialist physician or have completed at least 8 hours of qualifying education on treating and managing patients with SUDs from one or more accredited organizations or an accredited health professional school or residency program.
 - Not prevent the use of this education both for purposes of satisfying the one-time DEA registration requirement and for other purposes, such as satisfying State licensing requirements. Continuing medical education options are available at no cost to clinicians.
 - Allow accredited health professional schools and residency programs to deliver the education through comprehensive SUD curricula. This will normalize and mainstream addiction medicine education and phase out the need to complete federally mandated educational hours after graduation/residency training.
 - Authorize federal grants to professional associations, universities, and other schools to develop and implement high-quality, comprehensive curricula on identifying and treating SUD.



ASAM American Society of
Addiction Medicine



ACMT American College
of Medical Toxicology

#AMAC21