



# Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD): U.S. Payment Policy Landscape and Opportunities

## Overview of the Landscape of MOUD in the U.S.

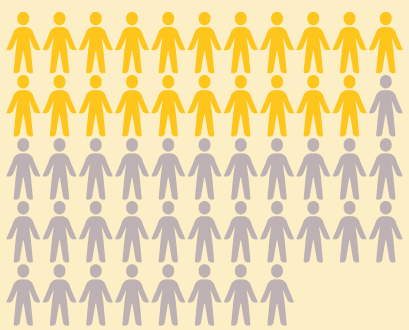


Medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD) are the gold-standard treatment, but less than 30% of people with opioid use disorder receive it.



Financing barriers play a key role in the lack of access to MOUD, such as insurance requirements for prior authorization, and mismatches between fee-for-service financing models and MOUD care delivery structures.

## Summary of Policy Analysis and Expert Opinion



We conducted a policy analysis, qualitative interviews (N=21), and surveys (N=31) with U.S. MOUD payment policy experts to characterize MOUD insurance coverage across major categories of insurers.

### Study Findings:

Experts **lacked consensus on a single “best” MOUD reimbursement model** and cautioned against rigid approaches that force patients into one-size-fits-all care.

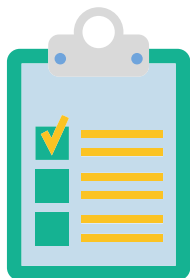
Experts agreed that there is a need to **tie payment to high-value MOUD care**, with high-value care defined as safe, timely, effective, efficient, equitable, and patient-centered.

However, experts **did not view value-based MOUD payment models as ready for wide-spread use**. This was due to two main factors:

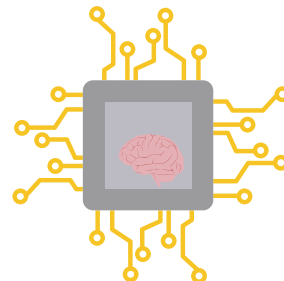
Lack of validated performance metrics associated with improved patient outcomes.

Limited capacity of many MOUD providers to track performance data.

### The study findings highlight opportunities to...



**Develop MOUD performance indicators** associated with improved patient outcomes.



**Build user-friendly health information technologies** to enable providers to gather performance data.

McGinty, E. E., White, S. A., Eisenberg, M. D., Palmer, N., Brown, C. H., & Saloner, B. K. (in press). U.S. payment policy for medications to treat opioid use disorder: Landscape and opportunities. *Health Affairs Scholar*. This work was supported by the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health (NIH) under award numbers P50DA054072 (PI: McGovern) and U2CDA057717 (Contact PI: McGovern). The content is solely the responsibility of the authors and does not represent the official position of NIDA/NIH.

See also the **Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Insurance Coverage and Payment Design: 2023 Overview Guide** at [\(will insert link\)](#).