



Position Statement on Rapid Opioid Detoxification (ROD)

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Managed Health Network (MHN) has adopted the following policy recommendations of the American Society of Addiction Medicine Board of Directors as MHN Guidelines:

1. Opioid detoxification alone is not a complete treatment of opioid addiction. ASAM does not support the initiation of acute opioid detoxification intervention unless it is part of an integrated continuum of services that promote ongoing recovery from addiction.
2. Ultra-Rapid Opioid Detoxification (UROD) is a procedure with uncertain risks and benefits, and its use in clinical settings is not substantiated by the evidence based literature and a positive risk-benefit relationship has not been as yet demonstrated. MHN does not cover UROD.
3. Although there is medical literature describing various techniques of Rapid Opioid Detoxification (ROD), further research into the physiology and consequences of ROD should be supported so that patients may be directed to the most effective treatment methods and practices.
4. Prior to participation in any particular modality of opioid detoxification, a patient should be provided with sufficient information by which to provide informed consent, including information about the risks of termination of a treatment plan of prescribed replacement agonist medications such as methadone or buprenorphine, as well as the need to comply with medical monitoring of their clinical status for a defined period of time following the procedure to ensure a safe outcome. Patients should also be informed of the risks, benefits and costs of alternative methods of treatment available.

The full ASAM Policy Statement can be found on line:

<http://www.asam.org/advocacy/find-a-policy-statement/view-policy-statement/public-policy-statements/2011/12/15/rapid-and-ultra-rapid-opioid-detoxification>

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