



It's time that **AMERICAN SENIORS** have access to **effective, evidence-based opioid addiction treatment**



Expand **Medicare Part B Coverage** to **Federally-Certified Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)**



Provide a **comprehensive legislative fix** - not a demonstration project

## WHAT ARE OTPs?

- **Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs)** are highly-regulated, evidence-based, comprehensive opioid addiction treatment programs that provide **Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)**. *MAT combines medication with behavioral and cognitive therapy*, and the most effective solution to treat **opioid use disorder (OUD)**.
- There are three federally-approved OUD medications: **methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone**.
- **OTPs** are the only place where methadone (least expensive treatment) is **allowed to be used as a recovery medication**.
- **MAT decreases** opioid use, opioid-related overdose deaths, criminal activity, and infectious disease transmission.<sup>3</sup>

## SENIORS NEED TREATMENT NOT TRAGEDY

# 300,000

Number of Medicare

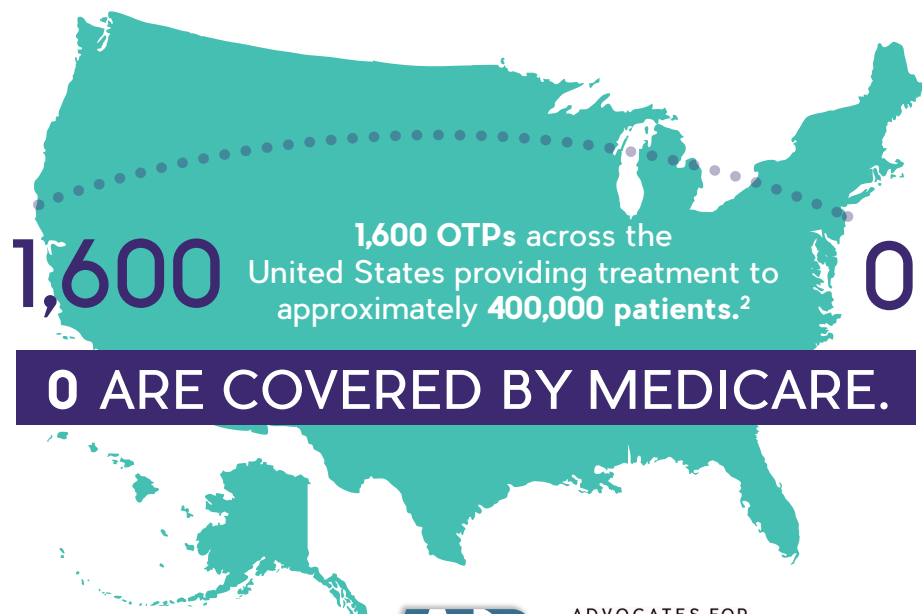
## BENEFICIARIES DIAGNOSED WITH OPIOID USE DISORDER (OUD)<sup>1</sup>

**OPIOID ADDICTION IS ON THE RISE**



**AMERICA'S SENIORS have the fastest OUD GROWTH RATE<sup>1</sup>**

## OTP TREATMENT IS OUT OF REACH FOR SENIORS AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES



ADVOCATES FOR OPIOID RECOVERY

WE DON'T NEED A DEMONSTRATION PROJECT.

WE'VE KNOWN FOR MORE THAN TWO DECADES:



# A LEGISLATIVE FIX IS NEEDED

Only Congress can rectify this disparity by passing a law that will expand Medicare Part B coverage to OTPs - CMS cannot do it alone. We urge the Senate to incorporate COMBAT Act (S. 2875) language into broader opioid legislation that would expand Medicare coverage for OTPs.

## 1997

### NIH Consensus Statement

*"Coverage for these [methadone treatment] programs should be a required benefit in public and private insurance programs."<sup>4</sup>*

## 2005

### SAMHSA Treatment Improvement Protocols

*"For decades, studies have supported the view that opioid addiction is a medical disorder that can be treated effectively with medications... when treatment includes comprehensive services."<sup>5</sup>*

## 2018

THE TIME IS NOW

[opioidrecovery.org](http://opioidrecovery.org)

The House of Representatives has done its part by passing H.R. 6, The SUPPORT for Patients & Communities Act:

YEA	396
NAY	14

*Sec. 2007: "The Secretary shall pay to an opioid treatment program... an amount that is equal to 100 percent of a bundled payment under this part for opioid use disorder treatment services...that are furnished by such program to an individual during an episode of care...beginning on or after January 1, 2020."*

**Now it's the Senate's turn.**  
**We urge the Senate to provide a permanent fix to this deadly problem.**



### PATIENT STORY

*I am a recovering drug addict and have been able to stay free off of street drugs because of this [OTP] program.*

*When I turned 65 I was told I may not be able to continue my treatment. Every day I worried myself terribly that if I had to leave my program I probably wouldn't want to guess what would happen to me. I thank God I was allowed to continue [because of MD Medicaid coverage].*

*I could write a book about all the people I have seen take advantage of this help. I know this program has saved my life.*

**Joseph Purvis Sr.**  
**66-year-old Maryland resident**

## AMERICA'S SENIORS DESERVE BETTER

<sup>1</sup>Lembke A, Chen JH. Use of Opioid Agonist Therapy for Medicare Patients in 2013. JAMA Psychiatry.2016;73(9):990-992. doi:10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2016.1390 <https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/fullarticle/2535238> [Cited. 2018, May 23]

<sup>2</sup>Morris, Peter, et al. "OTP Consortium Response to Senate Financial Committee." Received by The Honorable Orrin G. Hatch and the Honorable Ron Wyden, 16 Feb. 2018.

<sup>3</sup>NIDA. (2016, November 1). Effective Treatments for Opioid Addiction. [cited, 2018, May 23] <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/effective-treatments-opioid-addiction/effective-treatments-opioid-addiction>

<sup>4</sup>Effective Medical Treatment of Opiate Addiction. NIH Consensus Statement Online 1997 Nov 17-19; 15(6):1-38. [cited 2018, May 23] <https://consensus.nih.gov/1997/1998treatopiateaddiction108html.htm>

<sup>5</sup>Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction in Opioid Treatment Programs. Rockville (MD): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US); 2005. (Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series, No. 43.) Chapter 1. Introduction. [cited 2018, May 23] <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64168/>