**Interview of People who were Formerly Incarcerated and Were Enrolled in [Detention Center] MAT Program**

**INTERVIEW DETAILS**

**Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_** *(MM/DD/YYYY)*

**Interviewer’s initials: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Participant ID: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**ELIGIBILITY SCREENER**

**Are you currently a receiving MAT in the community?**

* + **Yes**
  + **No**

**Which medication are you currently prescribed?**

* + **Methadone**
  + **Buprenorphine (Suboxone)**
  + **Naltrexone (Vivitrol)**

**Were you prescribed [MEDICATION] when you were most recently incarcerated or did you start taking [MEDICATION] after you were incarcerated?**

* + **Prescribed at time of most recent incarceration**
  + **Started prescription after incarcerated**

**Does participant meet the eligibility criteria for this study?**

* + **Yes**
  + **No**

**Did participant sign consent?**

* + **Yes**
  + **No**

Thank you for agreeing to participate in this study. This interview is completely voluntary, so please feel free to skip any question or stop the interview at any time. Please also feel free to ask questions at any time if anything is unclear. **Today, we will talk about medication for addiction treatment, or “MAT”. These medications include methadone, Suboxone, and Vivitrol or naltrexone. We are interested in understanding what you think about MAT, community-based MAT program, and a few other topics.** **The interview will last about an hour. After you complete the interview, you will receive [incentive]. Do you have any questions before we start?**

**INTERVIEW PROTOCOL**

**INTRO SCRIPT: When you were at [detention center], you were a part of the comprehensive MAT program. We now want to follow up with you to see how your treatment is going in the community. To begin, I have a few questions about your knowledge and attitudes about MAT.** Note for interviewers re: questions 6-9: Randomize the order of questions from interview to interview to counter-balance any “question order” effect on answers.

**Domain 1: Knowledge and Attitudes about Substance Use and MAT in the Community**

1. First, can you tell me a little about your substance use?

*Prompt*: What kind of substances have you used? How often did you use? How long have you been using? What do you prefer to use most?

1. Have you ever overdosed?

*Prompt:* Can you tell me a little about that? Was this before or after you were most recently released from incarceration? Was the overdose fentanyl-related?

1. Do you know anyone who has overdosed?

*Prompt:* Can you tell me more about that? Was this before or after you were most recently released from incarceration? Have you ever used naloxone/Narcan to prevent someone from overdosing? How did that go?

If overdose was fentanyl-related: Can you tell me about the most recent time that you witnessed a fentanyl overdose? How did you know that it was fentanyl?

1. Do you have a fear of overdosing?

*Prompt:* Can you tell me more about that? Are your fears now that you have been released different from yours before?

1. What have you heard about **medication for addiction treatment, or “MAT”** for opioid addiction before talking with me today?

*Prompt:* (Definition, if needed: Medication for addiction treatment is the use of medications—like methadone, Suboxone, or Vivitrol—to treat opioid addiction.)

1. What have you heard about **methadone** before talking with me today?

*Prompt*: Have you used methadone before? Have your friends used methadone? What were your/their experiences like? What does methadone do/how does it work? What do you think about people who are patients in a methadone program? (Definition, if needed: Methadone is a liquid or pill that is taken orally, and it is a full opioid. It is sometimes used in pain management, and it reduces withdrawal symptoms and cravings.)

1. What have you heard about **Suboxone** before talking with me today?

*Prompt*: Have you used Suboxone before? Have your friends used Suboxone? What were your/their experiences like? What does Suboxone do/how does it work? What do you think about people who are prescribed Suboxone by a doctor? (Definition, if needed: Suboxone is a pill or film that is taken under the tongue, and it is part opioid and part opioid blocker. It blocks some of the effects of opioids, and it reduces withdrawal symptoms and cravings.)

1. What have you heard about **Vivitrol** or **naltrexone** before talking with me today?

*Prompt*: Have you used Vivitrol/naltrexone before? Have your friends used Vivitrol/naltrexone? What were your/their experiences like? What does Vivitrol/naltrexone do/how does it work? If participant describes Vivitrol for alcohol use, follow up with: have you ever used Vivitrol for opioid addiction? What do you think about people who are prescribed Vivitrol/naltrexone by a doctor? (Definition, if needed: Vivitrol is an injection that is taken monthly, and it is an opioid blocker. It blocks the effects of opioids and reduces cravings. It does not reduce withdrawal symptoms.)

9) Had you ever taken MAT before participating in the MAT program at the [detention center]?

If yes: what were they prescribed, how long were they in a program, their experiences, etc.) Have you ever taken MAT outside of a program (e.g. you took suboxone or methadone that someone else gave you)? How many days did you take it for? Was this before or after you were most recently incarcareated? What was that experience like?

(Note, if needed: **Naloxone/Narcan** is different from naltrexone. Naloxone is the “antidote” to opioid overdose. Naloxone is a short-acting opioid blocker that brings people out of opioid overdose.)

1. What type of MAT did you take while incarcerated?
   1. If they switched medication: You mentioned earlier that you are currently taking xxx. Why did you decide to take xxx in the community?
2. Are you engaging in any other recovery strategies in the community?
   1. If yes: Can you tell me more about them? What, if anything, helped you decide to participate in them? Do you think any other recovery strategies are important for people with opioid use disorder? If so, what?
   2. If no: Do you think any other recovery strategies are important for people with opioid use disorder? If so, what?

**SCRIPT:** Thank you for your responses. Now, I am going to ask you about your experiences with the [detention center] MAT program. I want to follow up and see how you feel about [detention center] MAT program now that you have been released.

**Domain 2: Experiences in RIDOC MAT program**

1. You may have been asked to take a survey about your drug use when you first got to the [detention center]. Can you tell me how the screening process went?
2. You also may have talked to a doctor or nurse at [detention center] who then filled out a prescription for you. Can you tell me about how this went?

*Prompt*: How did they describe the program to you? Was their description correct?

1. Can you tell me about how getting your first dose of medication at [detention center] went?

*Prompt*: Was the process confusing? When did it happen? Where did you go to get it? Were you/are you starting MAT for the first time, restarting, or continuing?

1. Were you incarcerated before the MAT program at the [detention center] started?
   1. If yes, what was that like?

*Prompt*: How was it different post-MAT program?

1. How did getting your dose usually go at [detention center]?

*Prompt*: Was this easy or difficult? Why? Did you get it regularly like you thought you should?

1. Can you tell me about any counseling that you received as part of the [detention center] MAT program?

Prompt: Counseling such as one-on-one sessions, 12-step programs, outpatient/inpatient programs, group sessions etc. Is it helpful?

1. If you had to guess, what do you think your experience would have been like if RIDOC did not provide MAT to anyone?

*Prompt:* Do you think having access to MAT changed your experience here at the [detention center]? Why? /Why not? (Note: participant may talk about personal withdrawal or living conditions affected by others in withdrawal, e.g. vomiting/agitated cell mates)

1. How do you think that **correctional officers** feel about the [detention center] MAT program? Why do you think they feel that way?

*Prompt*: Do you think they support it or not, why?

1. If you had to guess, how do you think that **[detention center] nurses** feel about the [detention center] MAT program? Why do you think they feel that way?

*Prompt*: Do you think they support it or not, why?

1. If you had to guess, how do you think that **other staff** feel about the [detention center] MAT program? Why do you think they feel that way?

*Prompt*: Do you think they support it or not, why?

1. Did people at the [detention center] treat you differently because you were in the MAT program?

*Prompt*: other people who are incarcerated, correctional officers, [detention center] staff, etc.

* 1. Has that changed your interest in being in the program?

1. Did you feel that the MAT staff cared about you, your health, your well-being after release? What about the nurses, doctors, the correctional officers, the correctional administrators?
2. Did anyone ever threatened to limit your access to MAT or kick you out of the program? Did that happen to anyone you know?
3. Do you think you could have been kicked out of the program?
   1. If yes, what actions do you think could get you kicked out of the program?

*Prompt:* e.g., diversion (giving your medication to someone else), disciplinary infraction, etc. Do you know anyone who has been kicked out of the program or misused the program?

1. Other programs kick people out for diversion. What do you think about that?

*Prompt*: In general, do you know of any people in the MAT program at the [detention center] who have diverted/given their MAT to someone else? If yes, why do you think they did/do it?

1. Now that you have been released, what are your impressions of the [detention center] MAT program?
   1. Can you tell me about what parts of the program need to be improved and how?
   2. If you had to guess, what do you think your experience after release would have been like if [detention center] did not provide MAT to anyone? Do you think access to MAT at [detention center] changed your experience after release? Why?

**Domain 3: Ethics**

1. Did you feel taken advantage of by being recruited to participate in the MAT program while incarcerated? Why or why not?
2. Do you have any suggestions about how [detention center] might design this program so that prisoners do not feel taken advantage of but still have the opportunity to participate?
3. Did you feel free to make your own decision about participating in the MAT program while at [detention center]? Why or why not?
   1. If no**:** How might [detention center] work to minimize or stop others from influencing prisoners’ decisions surrounding MAT?
4. Do you think that the [detention center] MAT program is private and confidential (e.g., do other prisoners or COs know that you are in the program)? Why or why not? 
   1. If no**:** How might the program be better designed to protect patients’ privacy and confidentiality?
5. When you were in the [detention center] MAT program, can you tell me about any times you were denied MAT? (e.g., segregation)

**SCRIPT:** Is there anything else you would like to share about the [detention center] MAT program?

Okay, next we are going to talk about your thoughts on treatment after release.

**Domain 4: Linkage to Care and Post-Release Treatment**

1. When you were incarcerated or preparing to be released, did you have any expectations about continuing treatment in the community?

*Prompt:* Did you want to continue MAT in the community? Why/why not?

1. When you were preparing to be released, did anyone help you find treatment in the community?

*Prompt:* e.g. [detention center] staff, nurse, corrections officer, social worker, family, friends?

1. (Skip if not currently on MAT): Earlier you mentioned that you are currently on MAT in the community.
   1. Where are you receiving your treatment?
   2. What kind of challenges, if any, have made it difficult to continue MAT in the community? (e.g., lack of support from friends and family, access to employment/housing/etc.) How have you navigated these challenges?
   3. Can you think of any services that would help you to continue MAT (e.g., case management (someone who understands your needs and can help navigate them), reminders in the mail, phone calls, receiving a cell phone, transportation, job assistance, training and education, housing etc.)?
2. (Skip if currently on MAT): Earlier you mentioned that you are currently not on MAT in the community.
   1. Can you tell me a bit about why you did not continue MAT in the community?
   2. What if, if anything, would make you more likely to start MAT again in the community?
3. Since you have been released, have you gone to a pharmacy for MAT instead of to a doctor’s office or a clinic with a pharmacist trained in addiction care?

**If yes:** Can you tell me a bit about why you went to a pharmacy for MAT?

**If no:** If the pharmacy were conveniently located with convenient hours, do you think

that would be a good option for you or would you prefer to go somewhere else first and then transfer to the pharmacy to receive MAT?

**SCRIPT:**

* + - * 1. (Yes, has used substances since release): As you mentioned before, you’ve used xxx since being released. I’d now like to talk to you about your opinions of and any experiences you’ve had with fentanyl since being released from incarceration.
        2. (No, has not used substances since release): Now I’d like to talk to you about your opinions of and any experiences your friends have had with fentanyl since being released from incarceration.

**Domain 5: Perceptions of Fentanyl**

1. Can you tell me what you know about fentanyl?

*Prompt*: How does fentanyl affect people? (Definition, if needed: Fentanyl is a very strong opioid. When made illegally, fentanyl is often mixed with or sold as another drug)

1. Have you ever known or suspected that fentanyl was in your drugs or supply?

*Prompt:* Why or why not?

1. In what drugs are fentanyl usually mixed with or sold as?

*Prompt:* (e.g., heroin, cocaine) Which is most common? (Mixed with vs. sold as)

1. How does a fentanyl high feel as compared to a high from heroin?
2. Do people you know prefer fentanyl?
3. Is there any way to identify fentanyl before you use it?

*Prompt:* Does it look, taste or smell different from other drugs?

1. (Skip if hasn’t used substances since release)

Since being released from incarceration, have you ever known or suspected fentanyl was in your drugs or supply? What strategies do you use to protect yourself from fentanyl?

1. Have any of your friends used or come in contact with fentanyl since you have been released?

*Prompt (if yes):* Did they overdose or have any negative reactions to it? Were you present when they used fentanyl?

1. What strategies do others you know use to protect themselves from fentanyl?
2. In [state], some policy makers have explored harsher prison sentences for people who deal fentanyl. What have you heard about this? What do you think would happen if fentanyl dealers were sentenced more harshly?

*Prompt*: Do you think it will help the fentanyl overdose crisis? Why/why not? If fentanyl dealers wanted to avoid these harsher sentences, what do you think they could do differently?

**SCRIPT:** Now, I’d like to ask you a few questions related to HIV risk.

**Domain 6: Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis for HIV Prevention**

1. Have you ever been tested for HIV before?

When was this? Have you been tested for HIV since your release?

1. Do you think you are at risk for HIV?

*Prompt*: Why/why not?

3) Have you ever heard of pre-exposure prophylaxis (or PrEP) before?

*Prompt*: (Definition: PrEP is a once daily medication that you can take to prevent HIV) What have you heard? Do you know of anyone who has taken it?

1. Are you currently taking PrEP?

*Prompt:*

a. If no: Would you be interested in taking PrEP, why/why not?

**SCRIPT:** Thank you for your responses about the MAT program. I am now going to ask you questions about behavioral action therapy (BAT). Behavioral activation therapy (BAT) is a type of therapy that helps people engage in enjoyable and meaningful life activities that do not involve drugs. The therapy also helps people improve their mood and manage life challenges, including getting back up on their feet after jail or prison. The therapy is given by a trained counselor over the course of 6 to 10 weeks. Each session lasts about 1 hour.

**Domain 7: Behavioral Activation Therapy**

**Behavioral activation therapy (BAT) is a type of therapy that helps people engage in enjoyable and meaningful life activities that do not involve drugs. The therapy also helps people improve their mood and manage life challenges, including getting back up on their feet after jail or prison. The therapy is given by a trained counselor over the course of 6 to 10 weeks. Each session lasts about 1 hour.**

**If these counseling sessions were made available to [detention center] MAT patients in the community as part of a paid research study, how likely would you be to participate? How about other [detention center] MAT patients?**

*Prompt:* How many sessions do you think would be necessary? Do you think it’s needed in light of the types of services that are available in the community/at [local healthcare providers]. (If patient asks, the payment would likely be $15 a session.)

**Do you think these type of counseling sessions could help [detention center] MAT patients who continued MAT in the community to keep taking their medication? Do you think the counseling sessions could help prevent them from using drugs again? Do you think the counseling sessions could help them not get incarcerated again?**

*Prompt:* Why/why not?

**What are your thoughts on the study taking place at [community healthcare provider] versus another location like [academic instituion] or [large hospital]?**

*Prompt:* What are some facilitators and barriers to hosting the study at [community provider]? At [hospital]? (e.g. potential benefits of getting the therapy and MAT at a single location vs. the feasibility of going to a non-[community provider] location) If client cites transportation as a concern, inquire if transportation would still be an issue if public transit passes were provided.

1. **Do you think that providing [detention center] patients with 1 to 2 counseling sessions while in jail/prison would be helpful in preparing them to continue with MAT in the community after being released?**

*Prompt:* Would you be interested in these counseling sessions? Would you have found them helpful when you were in jail/prison?

* 1. **What do you think are some, if any, potential challenges of doing these sessions in jail/prison instead of the community?**

*Prompt:* What are some potential barriers to doing these sessions in jail/prison? (e.g. whether the sessions might create issues with other inmates)

**SCRIPT:** Thank you, again, for your time today. Do you have any other thoughts that you would like to share about the [detention center] MAT program or any other topics that we’ve talked about?

To end, I have a few background questions.

**1. What is your age?** *[PPTAGE]*

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ [minimum value = 18]

**2. What was your biological sex at birth?***[SEX]*

Male

Female

Don’t Know/Refused

**3. Are you of Hispanic or Latino decent?***[ETHNIC]*

Yes

No

Don’t Know/Refused

**4. How would you describe your racial background?** *(Check only one). [RACE]*

American Indian or Alaska Native

Asian

Black, African, or African-American

Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander

White

Mixed, bi-racial, or multi-racial

Something else: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *[OTH]*

DK/R

**5. Do you consider yourself to be...** *(Read out list; check only one). [ORIE]*

Straight

Gay

Lesbian

Bisexual

Queer

Something else: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_*[OT]*

Don’t Know/Refused

**6. What best describes your current gender identity?** *(Check only one). [GEND]*

Male

Female

Transgender

Non-binary

Something else: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ *[OT]*

Don’t Know/Refused

**7. What is the highest level of education that you have received?** *(Check only one).* *[EDUC]*

Elementary or grade school

Some high school

Finished high school or GED

Some college

Trade or technical school

College or university degree

Don’t Know/Refused

**8. Where do you go when you have a health problem or need to see a doctor?**

Emergency room

Urgent care

Doctor’s office/Clinic

Other:\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**9. Do you regularly use a pharmacy for any reason?** Yes/No

If yes: **Why do you go to the pharmacy?** \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_