



# PATIENTS WITH SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER KNOW YOUR RIGHTS



## SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER IS A DISABILITY

The Washington Law Against Discrimination (WLAD) and the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) protect people with disabilities from discrimination.

## HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS CANNOT EXCLUDE YOU OR MAKE IT HARD TO ACCESS SERVICES DUE TO YOUR DISABILITY

Hospitals, skilled nursing facilities, substance use disorder and mental health treatment programs—both residential and outpatient—and other health care providers must serve people with substance use disorder if they qualify.

Similarly, it may be discrimination if you're required to:

- Stop taking prescribed medicine, such as buprenorphine, methadone, or naltrexone.
- Switch to a different medicine, such as buprenorphine instead of methadone.
- Decrease the dosage of prescribed medication.
- Bring a certain number of take-home doses of medicine to the treatment facility.
- Withdraw from opioids without medication.

## IS ILLEGAL DRUG USE PROTECTED?

Federal law states that ongoing illegal drug use is not considered a disability. But, you cannot be denied access to health care or substance use disorder treatment that you qualify for simply because you use illegal drugs. However, while you are in substance use disorder treatment, a provider may require you to stop using illegal drugs.

## WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Visit the Health Care Authority's [Opioid Use Treatment page by clicking here](#) or by scanning the QR code.

## HOW DO I REPORT A VIOLATION?

Make a complaint with the Washington State Human Rights Commission [online](#) or call 800-233-3247. *Complaints must be filed within **six months** of the incident or date of harm.*

Health Care Authority | Opioid Use Treatment



*This informational flyer is provided as a resource for general education and is not provided for the purpose of giving legal advice of any kind.*