



First Nations Health Authority
Health through wellness

Clinic Fees: Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)

Frequently Asked Questions

What is Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT)?

Opioid agonist therapy (OAT) is an effective treatment for people dependent on different types of opioids such as heroin, oxycodone, and fentanyl. The therapy involves medications such as Methadone or Suboxone. These medications prevent the effects of withdrawal and reduce cravings for opioids.

How can I access OAT?

OAT is prescribed by a doctor and can be accessed through public service providers, private clinics, and residential or outpatient treatment programs.

Who pays for OAT services?

When you access OAT through a public service provider, the cost of treatment is covered by the Medical Services Plan (MSP). OAT services that are provided through private clinics may charge a monthly fee for their programs and these fees are not covered by MSP.

What is the maximum amount a clinic can bill FNHA for OAT services?

Clinics can invoice FNHA up to a maximum of \$70/month per client for OAT clinic fees.

How long is the turnaround time before a service provider's (i.e. clinic) invoice is paid?

Invoices will be processed from Monday to Friday during business hours. FNHA will review the invoice claim and respond to the requesting service provider within 1-2 business days. It may take up to two weeks for payment to be made for approved invoices.

How long will FNHA reimburse private clinics for OAT clinic fees? Is there an end date for this initiative?

FNHA began reimbursing the monthly fees charged by private clinics on February 1, 2019 and will continue to do so until March 31st, 2020.

What happens if a clinic does not want to deal with invoicing FNHA and asks clients to pay direct?

If this happens, please let FNHA know immediately by contacting oaclinicfees@fnha.ca or by phone 604.693.6641. You can also visit a different OAT service provider. A list of providers can be found [here](#).

Where can I find out about other people's experiences with OAT?

Read about other people's experiences here:

- **Suboxone Stories Part 1:** Two clients share their early journeys with Opioid Agonist Therapy. [Link.](#)
- **Suboxone Stories Part 2:** Two clients open up about the emotional challenges of Opioid Agonist Therapy. [Link.](#)
- Health Leaders discuss providing Opioid Agonist Therapy. [Link.](#)

Resources

Information about OAT:

www.camh.ca/-/media/files/oat-info-for-clients.pdf

A list of OAT clinics accepting new patients:

<http://www.bccsu.ca/oat-clinics-accepting-new-patients/>

Subsidy Application for OAT Clinic Fees:

<http://www.fnha.ca/Documents/FNHA-Subsidy-Application-For-Opioid-Agonist-Therapy-Clinic-Fees.pdf>

Contact Us

If you have any questions about this initiative, please call or email us at:

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