

# Seattle TGA Ryan White Program Standards

## Substance Abuse Outpatient Care

*Approved by Planning Council 12/8/2025*

### HRSA Definition

Substance Abuse Outpatient Care is the provision of outpatient services for the treatment of drug or alcohol use disorders. Activities under Substance Abuse Outpatient Care service category include:

- Screening
- Assessment
- Diagnosis, and/or
- Treatment of substance use disorder, including:
  - Pretreatment/recovery readiness programs
  - Harm reduction
  - Behavioral health counseling associated with substance use disorder
  - Outpatient drug-free treatment and counseling
  - Medication assisted therapy
  - Neuro-psychiatric pharmaceuticals
  - Relapse prevention

Program Guidance: Acupuncture therapy may be allowable under this service category only when, as part of a substance use disorder treatment program funded under the HRSA RWHAP, it is included in a documented plan. Syringe access services are allowable, to the extent that they comport with current appropriations law and applicable HHS guidance, including HRSA- or HAB-specific

### **Seattle TGA Directives**

- The only allowed service is the direct provision of Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) or Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT).
- Program must use a Trauma Informed Care approach.
- Program must refer clients to services that reinforce their recovery efforts.
- The Program must impose a nominal charge to the client for services unless the services are provided by a free clinic.

## Service Units

- Collateral Contacts (Measured in 15 minute increments)
- Medication Assisted Treatment Dose (Clinic)
- Medication Assisted Treatment Dose (Take-Home)
- Referral to care and support services to reinforce client's recovery goals.

### 1.0 General Standards

	STANDARD	MEASURE
1.1	Program adheres to Seattle TGA Ryan White Program General Standards	Part A site visit documents adherence

### 2.0 Intake

	STANDARD	MEASURE
2.1	<p>As described in the General Standards 2.3, the agency initiates an <b>Intake</b> within 5 working days following a referral for Substance Abuse Outpatient Care.</p> <p>The <b>Intake</b> will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Documentation of client needs and eligibility for Substance Abuse Outpatient Care.</li> <li>• Documentation of the review of required policies (See General Standards 2.0)</li> <li>• An Eligibility Assessment in Provide, if the client does not already have one</li> <li>• A signed Release of Information and Informed Consent from the client that comply with Washington state law</li> <li>• Enrollment of the client into Substance Abuse Outpatient Care program at the agency</li> </ul>	Documentation in client record

### 3.0 Assessment

	STANDARD	MEASURE
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3.1	<p>As described in the General Standards 2.3, the agency conducts a <b>Substance Use Assessment</b> within 30 days of referral. The assessment must include an evaluation of the client's readiness for Medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) or Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). The assessment is conducted by a Substance Use Disorder Professional, Registered Nurse, or similarly licensed individual. The assessment is updated at any major life change or every five years. The assessment includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A comprehensive substance use assessment</li> <li>• Barriers to service and care</li> <li>• Client's harm reduction and/or recovery goals</li> <li>• Safety and risk assessment including overdose risk</li> </ul>	Documentation in client record
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#### 4.0 Treatment Plan

	STANDARD	MEASURE
4.1	<p>As described in the General Standards 2.3, the agency works with the client to develop a mutually agreed upon MOUD/MAT plan which includes a prescription for MOUD/MAT. The treatment plan should be reviewed and/or updated every 90 days. The plan must be developed by a Substance Use Disorder Professional, Registered Nurse, or similarly licensed individual. The plan should include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended services and course of treatment</li> <li>• Date the service is to be initiated</li> <li>• Planned number and frequency of sessions</li> <li>• Specific activities to support client goals</li> <li>• Referrals to other treatment services</li> </ul>	<p>Documentation of treatment plan in client record</p> <p>Documentation of efforts to review or update treatment plans</p>

#### 5.0 Staff Qualifications and Training

	STANDARD	MEASURE
5.1	Services must be provided by someone authorized by the State of Washington to deliver MOUD/MAT.	Documentation of authorization by the State of Washington to deliver MOUD/MAT

5.2	<p>In addition to trainings listed in General Standards 7.0, staff and volunteers will be trained in or have relevant experience in core competencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Trauma-informed care</li> <li>▪ Conflict de-escalation/resolution</li> <li>▪ Client assessment skills including identifying an individual at imminent risk who is in need of a higher level of support</li> <li>▪ Awareness of resources for appropriate referral</li> </ul>	Documentation in agency records
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**6.0 Case Closure**

	STANDARD	MEASURE
6.1	Please refer to the General Standards 2.1 wherein the agency follows its case closure policies.	Documentation in client record

**Created 12/9/2024**

**Dates Revised:**  
12/8/2025