

Opioid Use Disorder and Substance Use Disorder During COVID-19

A message from Jim Leonard, CEO, Magellan Behavioral Health of Pennsylvania, Inc.

As we move into the 2nd year of dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, we have come to understand for several months that it is not just the virus that has created traumatic and lasting damage for our families, friends and communities. We are also unfortunately seeing an increase number of members confronted with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Substance Use Disorder (SUD) due to the effects of the shutdown and the impact of social isolation on mental health. In some cases, this has been a new diagnosis caused by COVID-19 circumstances, and in other cases we have seen the stress associated with COVID-19 cause a member in recovery to have a relapse from a previous OUD and/or SUD. Both situations create added layers for all of us that continue to battle this statewide opioid epidemic that preceded COVID-19, and continues to create significant pain for far too many across Pennsylvania. It is important to proactively assist wherever possible, both personally and professionally.

At Magellan, we continue to have a recovery focus in our holistic approach to helping our members with an OUD and/or SUD. It is vital that our treatment plans remain member-focused, individualized, recovery-oriented and strengths-based. Our clinical and medical teams work closely with our Recovery Support Navigators (RSNs) and community-based Certified Recovery Specialists (CRSs) with lived recovery experience to guide a member through their recovery journey. In fact, our CRSs and RSNs continue to host many virtual events and 1-1 meetings with members and community stakeholders to offer support during these challenging times of recovery. If you have a question on behalf of a member or know a member that is looking to connect with someone at Magellan regarding the need to receive help with their recovery, please send an email to PACOV19MemberSupport@magellanhealth.com.

Statewide resources

- [PA DHS website for Opioid Epidemic Resources](#)
- [PA DHS website for Substance Abuse Resources](#)
- [Drug Take-Back Locations](#)
- [Opioid Use Disorder Centers of Excellence](#)
- [Warm Hand-Off Program](#)
- [Pennsylvania Recovery Organizations Alliance](#)
- [Bucks County Resources](#)
- [Cambria County Resources](#)
- [Delaware County Resources](#)
- [Lehigh County Resources](#)
- [Montgomery County Resources](#)
- [Northampton County Resources](#)



National resources

- [Faces and Voices of Recovery](#)
- [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration](#)