

Words Matter

Words are powerful... They can contribute to stigma and create barriers to accessing effective treatment

Use person-first language; focus on the person, not the disorder

When Discussing Opioid or Other Substance Use Disorders...

Avoid These Terms:

Addict, user, drug abuser, junkie

Addicted baby

Opioid abuse or opioid dependence

Problem

Habit

Clean or dirty urine test

Opioid substitution or replacement therapy

Relapse

Treatment failure

Being clean

Use These Instead:

Person with opioid use disorder or person with opioid addiction, patient

Baby born with neonatal abstinence syndrome

Opioid use disorder

Disease

Drug addiction

Negative or positive urine drug test

Opioid agonist treatment

Return to use

Treatment attempt

Being in remission or recovery