

# ANCILLARY WITHDRAWAL

## Foundational Concepts & Elements of Transformation

# Definition

- A medical regimen, conducted under the supervision of a physician to **stabilize the patient**, systematically reduce the amount of the addictive substance in a patient's body, provide reasonable control of active withdrawal symptoms and/or avert life threatening medical crisis related to the addictive substance
- Improves the patient's ability to engage in treatment and recovery

# Withdrawal Management Spectrum

## Severe Withdrawal

- Withdrawal symptoms that may be life threatening including: Delirium Tremens; seizures, severe dehydration and vomiting
- Physical health conditions that may be exacerbated by withdrawal or make withdrawal more serious
- Mental health conditions that make stabilization more complicated – for example, severe anxiety, suicidal thoughts or intent

## Moderate Withdrawal

- Symptoms of withdrawal are present and cause significant discomfort or distress
- Need for medication with slow taper and observation to ensure that the individual is not worsening to severe withdrawal

## Mild/Minimal Withdrawal

- Mild to Moderate or persistent withdrawal symptoms
- Admitted from another level of care, not in need of acute detox services
- Need for withdrawal symptom relief

# This is Not Detox

- Ancillary Withdrawal is a stabilization process for patients experiencing MILD to MODERATE withdrawal symptoms
- Anyone presenting with or developing symptoms of severe withdrawal must be referred to a more intensive level of care

# Benefits

- Research shows that combining treatment medications, where available, with behavioral therapy is the best way to ensure success for most patients. Treatment approaches must be tailored to address each patient's drug abuse patterns and drug-related medical, psychiatric, and social problems (SAMHSA).

# Benefits Cont.

- Engage patients in treatment directly at an earlier stage in their recovery, reducing opportunities to slip through care
- Addressing symptoms of withdrawal can enhance engagement for all patients and reduce negative attitudes and behaviors in those experiencing protracted withdrawal

# Benefits Cont.

- Providers offer a service that could reduce unnecessary use of inpatient level of care – aligns with goals of a value-based payment system
- Can improve patient experience – goal of the Triple Aim



The National Center on  
Addiction and Substance Abuse

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