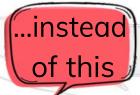
MultiCare ቭ

SAY

WORDS MATTER

How we talk about drug and alcohol use impacts the way people are treated in our society. The words we use can impact the quality of health care people receive and can even increase risk of death.



Person with a substance use disorder	Addict, user, drug abuser,
Person with addiction	junkie,crackhead, tweaker,
Person who uses drugs	pill-popper,alcoholic, drunk
 Person who misuses alcohol/engages in 	
unhealthy/hazardous alcohol use	
Person's name	
For alcohol:	Abuse
Risky or unhealthy alcohol use	
For prescription medications:	
 Misuse, used other than prescribed 	
For illicit drugs:	
• Use	
 Medication for addiction treatment (MAT) 	Medication-assisted
Treatment	treatment(MAT),
 Medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) 	replacement or substitution
Opioid agonist therapy (OAT)	therapy
• Medication for a substance use disorder	
For toxicology results:	Dirty
Positive test	
Unexpected result	
Non-test related:	
Person who uses drugs	
For toxicology results:	Clean
Negative test	
Expected result	
Non-test related:	
Person in remission or recovery	
 Person abstinent from alcohol or drugs 	
 Person not drinking or taking drugs 	
• Person not currently or actively using drugs or	
alcohol	
Baby born with Neonatal Opioid Withdrawal or	Addicted baby, Crack baby
Neonatal Abstinence Syndrome	
Newborn exposed to substances	

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