



FAQ

SB 6228 education on medications for opioid and alcohol use disorder & shared decision-making tools

What does **Senate Bill 6228 Sec. 4, 21a-c** require?

Licensed or certified Behavioral Health Agencies (BHAs) treating patients for opioid or alcohol use disorder, whether inpatient or outpatient, must:

- Provide education on medication options, including all FDA-approved medications, specific to the patient's condition
- Share unbiased information as required under Washington State laws on informed consent and shared decision-making (RCW [7.70.050](#) and [7.70.060](#))
- Help patients get the clinically appropriate medication they choose, either by providing it directly or warm handoff with a provider who can prescribe or dispense it.

To help meet these requirements, BHAs can use shared decision-making tools for opioid and alcohol use disorders developed by the Addictions, Drug, and Alcohol Institute (ADAI).

Enforcement & restrictions

According to **RCW [71.24.037](#)**(10)(b)(c)(d), BHAs that do not meet required education standards:

- Cannot provide treatment for opioid or alcohol use disorder
- Cannot advertise that they provide these services.

Not meeting the education requirements may be used as evidence that a patient did not receive proper informed consent and could result in disciplinary action.

These requirements do not apply to hospital-based BHAs.

To report a violation, visit the WA Department of Health's [Healthcare Agencies and Facilities Complaint Process](#) page or send an email directly to HSQAFacilitiesComplaintIntake@doh.wa.gov.

For exact wording of the legislation and its requirements, please refer to [Senate Bill 6228](#).

What is shared decision-making and how does it help?

Shared decision-making is a collaborative process where clients and clinicians make health decisions together. It combines the best available research with the client's personal goals, values, and preferences so they can make informed choices that fit their needs. Studies show that when treatment aligns with someone's personal preferences and values, they are more likely to have better outcomes, like reduced substance use.

How shared decision-making works

Shared decision-making includes these steps:

1. Help clients feel informed and supported throughout the decision-making process.
2. Explain that different options will be reviewed together as a team.
3. Describe evidence-based treatments and supportive options, including benefits and risks; answer questions; and ensure understanding. Decision aids, like the ADAI tools, can help.
4. Explore what matters to the client and how each option fits their personal goals and preferences.
5. Make a treatment plan together based on the client's preferences.
6. Follow up to see how the plan is working and make changes if needed.

Do BHAs have to use the ADAI shared decision-making tools?

No. BHAs may use their own educational materials as long as they meet legal requirements in **RCW 71.24.037**(10)(a).

Why use the ADAI tools?

The ADAI tools meet SB 6228 requirements. They also:

- Provide evidence-based, accurate information in plain language.
- Were developed with input from researchers, clinical experts, and people with lived experience.
- Can be used by both clinical and non-clinical BHA staff who educate clients.
- Were developed in partnership with the Washington State Health Care Authority, the Washington State Department of Health, and the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM).

What providers can use the ADAI tools?

The ADAI tools are educational resources, not clinical assessment tools, so they do not require professional licensure. They can be used by:

- **Any BHA staff** who help clients understand treatment and other supportive options.
- **Prescribers and clinicians** to support shared decision-making conversations.

How do I access and use the ADAI tools?

The tools are available for free at adai.uw.edu/shared-decision-making-tools.

BHAs can use the tools at different points in care, including:

- Intake
- Treatment planning
- Medication discussions
- Discharge planning

What's Included

Printable Medications Handout:

- Summarizes and compares evidence-based medication options.
- Can be reviewed with clients to support conversations about medications and connect them with the next steps in care.
- Includes a client and clinician signature page to support documentation of client receipt of education on medications and interest in medications.

Interactive Online Decision Aid:

- A mobile-friendly tool that helps clients compare treatment and other supportive options.
- Supports conversations about personal needs and preferences.
- Can be used by trained non-clinical staff to help clients understand their options and connect them with the next steps in care.

Alcohol Use Disorder Tools:

Available now

[Printable Medications Handout](#)

[Interactive Online Patient Decision Aid](#)

Opioid Use Disorder Tools:

Available end of 2026

[Printable Medications Handout](#)

[Interactive Online Patient Decision Aid](#)

What training and technical assistance will be offered?

ADAI will offer free training through:

- Live online training
- In-person training
- Self-paced online modules

Participants who complete the training will receive a Certificate of Completion, which may be used to document participation in continuing professional development activities.

[Find the latest information on training opportunities.](#)

How does billing & coding work for these tools?

Using shared decision-making tools is **not** considered a separate billable Medicaid service.

The inclusion of these tools and the time it takes to administer them can be billed as part of substance use disorder (SUD):

- Brief intervention
- Assessment services
- Ongoing treatment, including individual therapy sessions

Who can I contact if I have questions or feedback?

If you have questions, need support or technical assistance after completing a training, or would like to share feedback, contact: SharedDecisionMaking@uw.edu.