

## What is the Medication-First Program?

## I'm interested! What do I do next?

# Medication-First Program

*for Opioid Use Disorder*

### We recognize that many people with opioid use disorder:

- Use alcohol and other drugs
- Relapse, often multiples times
- Have other demands that make it hard to go to lots of appointments

### Call

253.798.3502

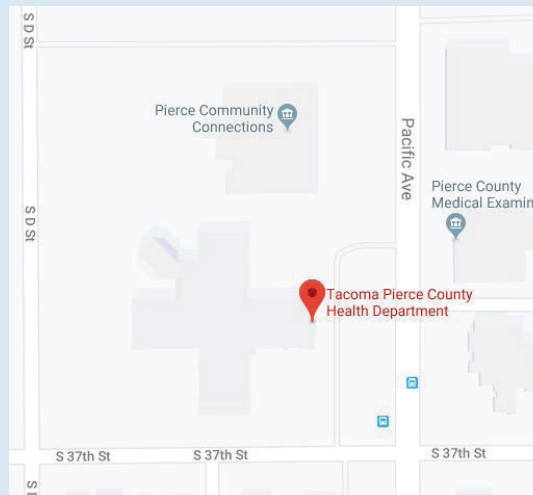
### Visit

Tacoma Pierce County Health Dept  
3629 S D St, Tacoma, WA 98418

### We want to work with you.

### We will:

- Work with you to **start medications as soon possible**
- Provide you kind, supportive care
- Connect you with a care navigator who can work with you to stay on your medications, navigate other medical needs, and increase stability in other areas of your life
- The care navigator and medical providers can work with you for up to 6 months to help connect you to ongoing care with a community medical provider



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This project is in collaboration with the University of Washington  
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We *want* to  
work with you!

## What can I expect?

### At your first visit:

- You will **meet with a care navigator** to talk about the program and answer your questions.
- If you are interested, the care navigator will **introduce you to a medical provider** to talk about starting medications.
- If medically appropriate, you may be able to **start medications** the same day and get an initial short-term prescription.

### Ongoing:

- Talk with a care navigator to help you stay on buprenorphine.
- You can get help with things like: reminders for your next medication visit, applying for Medicaid, getting ID, transportation, and finding food and other services.
- A care navigator will be available up to **6 months** and will help you connect with a medical provider to work with long-term.

### At every medical visit:

- You will meet with a provider who will check how you are feeling on your medication.
- You will get a prescription for buprenorphine; the length of the prescription can increase over time from days to weeks.
- **You will not be “kicked out” of the program if you test positive for other drugs.** The urine tests help the provider know how you’re doing.



## What is buprenorphine?

**Buprenorphine is a medication that lowers or eliminates opioid craving, and:**

- Lasts about 24 hours
- Helps prevent withdrawal symptoms (feeling sick)
- Reduces the need to get drugs illegally
- Reduces risk of opioid overdose
- Helps support recovery

*Buprenorphine can help you feel normal, reduce the chaos, and stabilize your life.*

**Once stable on buprenorphine, you can start to:**

- Feel better
- Better care for loved ones
- Save money
- Look for a job
- Get medical or mental health care, or addiction counseling (if you want to)
- Cut back on alcohol and other drug use (if you want to)