

## MATS Code of Ethics

The ICAADA Medication Assisted Treatment Specialist (MATS) Code of Ethics is a guide for ethical standards for ICAADA MATS professionals. The foundations for this Code are the following ethical principles: Non-maleficence, Beneficence, Autonomy, and Justice. In short, MATS professionals shall not harm their clients, while providing them with beneficial support and interventions that respect their personhood and the needs of the community at large.

MATS professionals have a responsibility to help individuals in recovery achieve their personal recovery goals by promoting self-determination, personal responsibility, and the empowerment inherent in self-directed recovery. Unique to MATS professionals, when compared to other addiction recovery professionals, is increased training in the role of certain medications in the management of symptoms associated with certain substance use disorders. MATS professionals recognize that medications provide a necessary support to many in their personal recovery journey. This additional training allows for MATS professionals to play an important role in multidisciplinary teams treating addictions in a variety of settings.

MATS professionals shall not perform services outside of the boundaries and scope of their training, shall be aware of the limits of their training and capabilities, and shall collaborate with other professionals to best meet the needs of the populations served. MATS professionals shall always preserve an objective and ethical relationship with the individual(s) served as part of the services they provide. This includes reporting any ethical misconduct to the respected person's credentialing/licensing body immediately. This credential does not condone, endorse, suggest, or intend that a MATS professional shall serve independently without appropriate supervision, unless it is secondary to a state license that affords them this ability, such as an LCSW, LCAC, LMHC, or LMFT.

**I. Ethical Principle 1: Non-Maleficence:** As a MATS professional, I am committed to "First, do no harm." I am committed to ensuring that the services that I provide do not increase the hardship and suffering of those I am charged with helping.

### A. Conflicts of Interest and Dual Relationships

1. I will not engage in professional relationships or commitments that conflict with family members, friends, close associates, or others whose welfare might be jeopardized by such a conflict of interest.
2. I will not engage in a "dual relationship" with any client, meaning a relationship between myself and my client in which multiple roles are inhabited in addition to the therapeutic alliance (i.e. salesperson/customer, sponsor/sponsee).
2. Because a relationship begins with a power differential, I shall not exploit relationships with current or former clients for personal gain, including social or business relationships.
3. I will not, under any circumstances, ever engage in sexual behavior with current or former clients and not accept as a client anyone with whom I have ever engaged in sexual behavior.

4. I will not accept substantial gifts from clients, other treatment organizations, or the providers of materials or services used in my practice.
5. I will seek supervision when unsure of any current, previous, or perceived conflict of interest to the services provided.

**B. Nondiscrimination**

1. I will ensure the services I provide are not discriminatory against any populations, or persons served, based upon ethnicity, race, color, religious or spiritual belief, gender identity, sexual orientation, mental or physical ability, criminal justice background, or any other category that may separate them from my personal beliefs

**C. Initiation and Discharge**

1. I will work to ensure than all clients are only initiated on medication assisted treatment when they can provide informed consent, understanding the risks as well as the benefits of their chose course of intervention.
2. I will work to ensure that discharge from treatment is conducted in accordance with sound, medically acceptable practice. The patient will be assured of due process if the discharge is administrative in nature.

**II. Ethical Principle 2: Beneficence:** As a MATS professional, I am committed to providing services that provide a benefit to the presenting problem for which the client is in my care.

**A. Professional Conduct**

1. I will accurately identify my qualifications, expertise, and certifications to all whom I serve and to any potential employers.
2. I will report any personal, agency, or other professional ethical misconduct in accordance with agency policy and licensing/credentialing body protocol.
3. I will not commit a criminal offense. I understand if I am charged for a criminal offense, the ICAADA Ethics Committee reserves the right, with full ICAADA board approval, to take immediate disciplinary action up to and including suspension of my credential. It is my duty to notify ICAADA immediately if I am charged with a criminal offense.

**B. MATS Competencies and Limitations**

1. I will ensure all services provided are within my scope of practice, educational qualifications, and competency and are evidence-based, person-centered and outcome driven.
2. I will not provide any recommendations to any client regarding the prescription or administration of medications, such as recommending one medication over another or dosage adjustments, unless my MATS credential is secondary to a state medical license that allows me to make such clinical judgments.
3. I will encourage each client to discuss questions and concerns related to their medication directly with their medical practitioner.

4. I will provide medical practitioners with whom I share clients with important context on individual clients, to assist them in making the safest and most beneficial decisions possible for our clients.

5. I will subscribe to the treatment principles as published in the CSAT TIP 43, Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction in Opioid Treatment Programs, which serve as a resource in making therapeutic treatment decisions.

6. I will further my educational knowledge related to the person served and the practices of my profession, particularly when it comes to advancements in the practice of medication assisted treatment for substance use disorders.

#### C. Trauma-Informed Care

1. I recognize that many clients with substance use disorders will have a significant trauma history that impacts their lives.

2. I will place the safety of the individual as primary in all my interactions with my clients.

3. I will continue to seek out training in trauma-informed care and will be receptive to feedback on the impact of my behavior, interventions, and environment may have on the individual.

#### D. Cultural Competency

1. I recognize that the cultural context of the individual is a vital piece of their experience and their recovery.

2. I will seek opportunities to develop my cultural competence. I will ask for and be receptive to feedback from my clients and the community at large as to how interventions and practices are viewed through their cultural experience.

#### E. Clinical Documentation

1. I will maintain required documentation for all consultative sessions, and client records, as required by the agency through which I am employed or the federal requirements making certain that records are documented honestly and stored securely. Agency disposal of records policies shall be adhered to.

#### F. Supervision

1. I recognize that I will always be refining my professional skills and will require clinical supervision throughout my career.

2. I will seek out supervision within my agency. Ideally, MATS professionals should be supervised by competent senior MATS professionals. When this is not possible, I will seek peer supervision or mentoring from other competent MATS professionals

3. If I am also a person in recovery, I will seek out support and supervision to ensure that I continue to attend to my own recovery.

#### G. Interdisciplinary Services

1. As a MATS professional, I recognize that I will likely perform my services in the context of an interdisciplinary team. This team may include physicians, nurses, case managers, peer recovery coaches, and therapists.

2. I will stay within my scope of practice, as the insight that I might be able to provide is unique and vital to the clients that I serve.

3. I will honor the scope of practice that my teammates occupy and the expertise each member brings.

**III. Ethical Principal 3: Autonomy:** As a MATS professional, I am committed to providing services that respect the right of my clients to make their own decisions regarding the care that they require. All services should be rendered such that the individual participates fully in their treatment, except when the present a risk to themselves or to others.

**A. Respect for the Individual**

1. I recognize that there are many pathways to recovery from substance use disorder. I will respect and honor the journey of the individual by helping each client cultivate a recovery that meets the person where they are.
2. I will work to stay abreast of the recovering community in my area of practice, to be able to provide my clients with a variety of options that may assist them on their unique pathway.

**B. Informed Consent**

1. I will provide clients with accurate and complete information regarding medication assisted treatment, the nature of available services, and the availability of alternative treatment modalities prior to admission and throughout the treatment process.
2. I will review any treatment agreements and treatment plans with patients on a regular basis to ensure that the client understands their rights, as well as the risks and responsibilities of any given intervention.
3. If a client appears to be unable to provide consent due to intoxication, acute withdrawal, and/or cognitive impairment, I will seek out supervision immediately

**C. Confidentiality**

1. I will protect the privacy and confidentiality of persons served in adherence with federal confidentiality, HIPAA laws, local jurisdiction and state laws and regulations. This includes electronic privacy standards (social media, texting, video conferencing etc.)
2. I will provide each client with information regarding my role as a mandated reporter and my ethical obligation to prioritize the safety of my clients and my community over confidentiality when an imminent risk presents itself.

**D. Mandated Reporting/Duty to Warn**

1. I will report all cases of suspected abuse or neglect of minors, and/or neglect, battery, or exportation of an endangered adult to the appropriate authorities.
2. If a client presents an imminent risk to themselves or others, I will take steps to ensure their safety by enlisting the assistance of my supervisor(s) and, if necessary, law enforcement.
3. If a client presents an imminent risk to another individual, I will take steps to warn that individual of the threat, in addition to law enforcement.

**IV. Ethical Principle 4: Justice:** As a MATS professional, I am committed to providing services that are equitable and fair. Individuals in similar situations should be treated similarly. In addition, I am

committed to furthering the reputation and availability of medication assisted recovery in my community.

A. Treatment Environment

1. I will work to provide a safe and clean environment for clients and staff that is conducive to the therapeutic process.
2. I will strive to maintain good relations with the surrounding community and pursue every reasonable action to encourage responsible patient behavior and community safety.

B. Equitable Treatment

1. I will strive to ensure access to needed information, services, and resources; equality of opportunity; and meaningful participation in decision making for all people.
2. I will strive to ensure that individuals shall get treated in accordance with their diagnosis, severity of presentation, availability of interventions, and personal preferences.
3. I will do my part to ensure that the fees are fair, reasonable, and commensurate with the services performed. Consideration will be given to clients' ability to pay.

C. Termination of Services

1. I will terminate services to clients and professional relationships with them when such services and relationships are no longer required or no longer serve the clients' needs or interests.
2. I will take reasonable steps to avoid abandoning clients who are still in need of services. I should withdraw services precipitously only under unusual circumstances, considering all factors in the situation, and taking care to minimize possible adverse effects.
3. I will assist in making appropriate arrangements for continuation of services when necessary

C. Promoting Medication Assisted Recovery

1. I will contribute time and professional expertise to activities that promote respect for the value, integrity, and competence of the profession.
2. I will present the benefits and successes of medication assisted recovery and work to reduce stigma associated with addiction and with medication assisted treatment, wherever possible.

I hereby attest that I have read, understand, and will adhere to the ICAADA MATS Code of Ethics, as described above; and including, a subsequent change to the code of ethics that is duly approved by the ICAADA Board of Directors at a regularly scheduled Board Meeting. It is my responsibility to remain current and comply with the code of ethics for this and other credentials awarded by ICAADA throughout the life of the credential.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_