

DRT/MAT* as it Relates to NA Helping Members Take Root



*Drug Replacement Therapy/ Medication-Assisted Treatment

TRADITION THREE

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.





**Our Third Tradition
offers relief from
reservations we
might have about
membership and
about each other.**

*Guiding Principles,
“Tradition Three”*

“The group is not the jury of desire.... No addict should be denied an opportunity to stay long enough to develop that desire. We can nurture that desire with loving acceptance.”

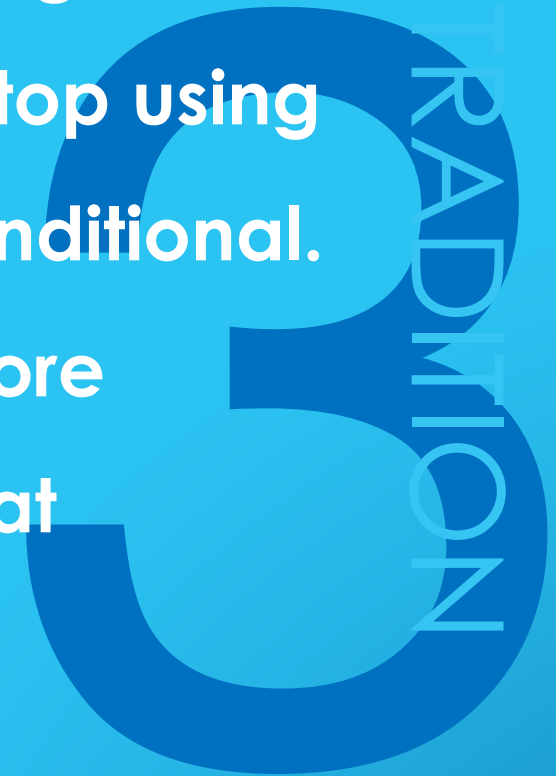
“...we are encouraged to open wide the doors of our meetings to any addict who wishes to join. We are asked to extend to others the care and concern that helped each of us find a sense of belonging.”

It Works: How and Why, Tradition Three



“Tradition Three swings the door to Narcotics Anonymous wide open and invites an opening in our own hearts. As long as we have a desire to stop using drugs, our right to membership in NA is unconditional. We may attend meetings for a long time before deciding to be members. When we make that decision, our lives begin to change.”

Guiding Principles, Tradition Three



We've been having conversations around drug replacement therapy, or medication-assisted treatment (DRT/MAT) for decades.

It's clear we don't have a unified Fellowship position on this issue.



It's important to talk about because...

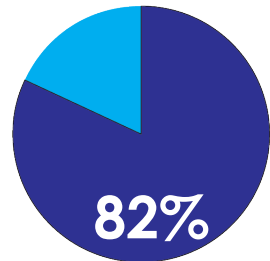


- It is not going away
- Medication is frequently part of treatment and may be mandated for compliance
- We need to consider how to carry the message in the world we live in

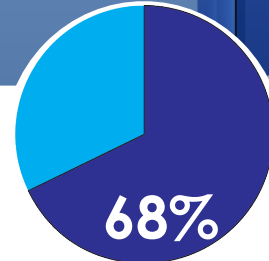
It is our job to make sure that recovery is available to anyone who wants it, and that it is attractive to those who need it.

If professionals are unwilling to refer people to NA, some addicts may never find us.

Most recent membership survey



stayed in NA because of identification with other members



said their first meeting was important or very important



Where we have consensus as a Fellowship

- Our message is hope and the promise of freedom. We are a program of complete abstinence.
- It doesn't matter what or how much you used.
- What we care about is what you want to do about your problem and how we can help.
- The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop using.
- We want people to be able to choose NA membership no matter how they get here.
- We want NA to be a safe place to recover.





Is there anyone here who has experience coming into NA on medication to treat addiction and now living drug free?

Would you be willing to share a few thoughts on your experience?

Small Group Discussion

Facilitators Guidelines:

1. Choose someone to take notes.
2. Remind the group of their task and time limit.
3. Make sure everyone gets to share their thoughts.
4. Help the group summarize the main points to share with everyone.



Small Group Discussion

QUESTIONS # 1

- As a program of complete abstinence, how do we help people feel included enough to be able to choose whether to be an NA member?
- How can people who are taking drt/mat take part in NA service?



Small Group Discussion

QUESTIONS # 2

- What does it mean to move from being “someone who goes to some meetings sometimes” to being a member of NA?
- How can we help people that are on drt/mat to keep coming back?



Small Group Discussion

QUESTIONS # 3

- What to answer if a person coming to meetings on drt/mat asks: am I clean?
- How can we set aside some of our own fear and judgment about members who come in on DRT/MAT to focus on helping addicts find a home in NA?



Large Group Discussion

What is one thing that was shared that stood out for you in the small group discussion?



Thank you for your participation!

EDM FD
fd@edmna.org

If you want to join to the EDM FD
WhatsApp Group, please use the QR code!



All workshop material is available at edmna.org

