

Medication Dosing Units

Division of Substance Use Programs August 2025

A medication dosing unit (MDU) is a component of an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP or “Hub”) that is geographically separated from the OTP/Hub. MDUs are defined under federal regulations as facilities, including community pharmacies, that dispense treatment medications under the direction of the governing OTP/Hub.

MDUs can be mobile or non-mobile, and they can provide the same services as an OTP/Hub, but the priority and mission of a medication unit is to provide medication dispensing to people living in rural areas with limited accessibility. This kind of accessibility allows people to establish a routine and maintain a productive life in their own communities without having to travel great distances.

If you need help accessing or understanding this information, contact AHS.VDHDSU@vermont.gov.

Key Points

- **MDUs are a way to make MOUD’s more accessible in rural areas or for those who cannot access hubs consistently.**
- **Consistently accessing medication helps people remain in and engaged in treatment.**
- **Vermont is expanding access to MDUs.**

Who Can Establish a Medication Unit?

- An OTP/Hub may establish a medication unit(s) to administer or dispense medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD).
- An MDU must have a separate and unique Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) registration to facilitate access to medication for people who would otherwise have to travel great distances and must also be licensed by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), accredited by the Joint Commission or CARF and certified by the State.

What are MDUs?

Medication Dosing Units Are:

- A component of an established OTP/Hub
- Located separately from the governing OTP/Hub
- A medication dosing location for patients AFTER they have been admitted by the governing OTP/Hub



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- Able to dose MOUD (methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone products, etc.)
- Intended to decrease but not eliminate travel burdens for OTP/Hub patients
- Required to maintain medications on-site, in compliance with DEA regulations
- Operated with defined hours
- Required to be registered by the DEA, licensed by SAMHSA, and certified by the State

Medication Dosing Units Are Not:

- Free standing, independent OTPs/Hubs/Methadone clinics
- Where treatment is established (patients are admitted at OTPs/Hubs)
- Intended to eliminate all patient travel to OTP/Hub location
- Drop-in clinics (patients must be admitted through OTPs/Hubs and approved for dosing at medication unit)
- An alternative to OTPs/Hubs (they are medication units governed by an OTP/Hub and licensed to dispense medications)

What is planned for the future?

- In accordance with [Act 22](#) (An act relating to reducing overdoses), the Vermont Department of Health, Division of Substance Use Programs, issued a Request for Proposal to solicit proposals from eligible organizations to develop and implement MDUs to improve geographic equity and access to MOUD for people experiencing opioid use disorders (OUD) and associated substance use disorder (SUD) treatment.
- The satellite locations established pursuant to the Act are eastern or southern Vermont. Vendors have been chosen and are working on securing locations for the MDUs in the stated locations.

Sources: [SAMHSA, Certification of Opioid Treatment Programs \(OTPs\)](#); [SAMHSA, Statutes, Regulations, and Guidelines](#); [National Archived, Code of Federal Regulations](#)