

**NYS Alcohol and Substance Use Providers Prevention Committee  
Harm Reduction Services White Paper**

OASAS Prevention Providers recognize harm reduction services as an important component in the continuum of services. As the NYS OASAS Division of Harm Reduction Services is coordinating the design, implementation, and policy development associated with the delivery of harm reduction services, the ASAP Prevention Committee is respectfully requesting OASAS review some points for consideration which are outlined below.

Many of the harm reduction strategies discussed in the OASAS webinars focus on individuals who already have a substance use disorder and aim to prevent them from developing communicable diseases, keep them alive, reverse the effects of overdose and hopefully refer them to appropriate health and treatment agencies. OASAS funded prevention strategies aim to delay the onset of substance use and prevent, reduce the harm of substance use for individuals who do not yet have a substance use disorder.

OASAS funded prevention providers have the capacity and skillset to effectively implement harm reduction strategies. Strategies that reduce harm have been implemented by traditionally OASAS certified program types for years and they continue to develop in frequency and type. (see attached table) Utilizing strategies that reduce harm across programs and local coalitions is instrumental to prevent negative outcomes, reduce recidivism and/or reoccurrence.

If there is an expectation for OASAS funded prevention providers to implement or expand upon harm reduction strategies, we are respectfully requesting this be a collaborative process and allow providers flexibility to select harm reduction strategies that are data driven and align to address local needs and preferences.

We are requesting that the role of the newly created Division of Harm Reduction Services be clarified and communicated to the field. Funding should be added to existing allocations to support the growth of current strategies and implementation of new strategies. This newly added funding should be available across all program types to maximize service delivery options in each community.

Strategies to Reduce Harm by OASAS Certified Program Type

		Program Type			
		Prevention	Treatment	Recovery	Harm Reduction
<b>S t r a t e g y</b>	Opioid Overdose Prevention Providers (OOPP)	x	x	x	x
	Naloxone Administration Only	x	x	x	x
	Fentanyl Test Strips	x	x	x	x
	Syringe Services Program		x		x
	Person Centered Care Planning		x	x	
	Prescription drug take back initiatives	x			
	Prevention Counseling	x			
	Prevention Education	x			
	Early Intervention (TI, SBIRT, BASICS)	x			
	Environmental Prevention Strategies	x			
	Deterra bag & Lock Box distribution	x			
	Overdose Prevention Site (Safe Injection Site)				x