

# The New Language of Addiction

From the Medical Terminology Blog

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UPDATED LANGUAGE	REPLACES	REASON FOR CHANGE
Substance Use Disorder (SUD)	Drug addiction, drug abuse, drug habit, substance abuse, dependence	Alters clinician's negative perception that SUD reflects the person's personal failing; helps remove barriers to treatment
Person With A Substance Use Disorder	Addict, abuser, abuse, alcoholic  Pejorative terms: Junkie or crackhead	Removes labeling people and judgments including whether they should receive treatment or punishment
Person in Recovery <i>or</i> Not Currently Using Substance	Clean (refers to toxicology screen that is negative for substance use)	Removes stigmatizing language
Person Who Is Currently Using Substance	Dirty (refers to toxicology screen that is positive for substance use)	Removes stigmatizing language
Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) [FDA-approved medication]	Medication replacement or medication substitution	Replacement or substitution implies that one medication is substituted for another
Medication <i>or</i> Non-Medically Used Psychoactive Substance	Drug	Removes stigma and accurately denotes medically appropriate medication