

# Summary

- Throughout the POATSP course, consider how the prescribing competencies described in this module can be applied to opioid use disorder care.
- There are a number of elements that RNs and RPNs may perform when providing comprehensive care to people who use opioids, which include:
  - Diagnosing opioid use disorder.
  - Performing or ordering and interpreting certain laboratory and point-of-care tests.
  - Prescribing buprenorphine/naloxone.
  - Making referrals.
- Laboratory and point-of-care tests include:
  - Those performed prior to initiating opioid agonist treatment (OAT).
  - Those that have implications for OAT care.
  - Those that are part of health promotion for people who use drugs.
- Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses may consult with prescribers with expertise in addiction medicine in their organization, health authority, or through the 24/7 Addiction Medicine Clinician Support Line.
- Referrals may need to be made to family physicians and nurse practitioners for collaborative or ongoing care.
- PharmaNet is a useful tool for confirming current prescriptions and past prescribed OAT.
- PharmaCare helps residents of British Columbia enrolled in the Medical Services Plan to pay for eligible prescriptions, certain medical supplies, and pharmacy services.
  - PharmaCare plans that provide coverage for OAT include Fair PharmaCare, Plan C, Plan G, and Plan W.
- Registered nurses and registered psychiatric nurses must document, in a timely manner, all assessments, diagnoses, treatment plans, interventions, and patient outcomes, in accordance with the BC College of Nurses and Midwives documentation standard.
- A decision support tool has been created, which RNs and RPNs are expected to follow when prescribing the opioid agonist treatment buprenorphine/naloxone.

