The treatment path for people who have opioid-related substance use disorder can be difficult for patients to navigate. Without professional coordination of care, many drop out of treatment before they attend follow-up appointments to help them with all of their symptoms (physical and behavioral) and without vital community supports in place.

1. A person suffering from addiction enters a health care facility
   Initial help is sought at one of several possible locations, including hospitals, the office of a primary care physician, or with a behavioral health specialist.

2a. The patient is evaluated
   If a patient utilizes the referral, a standard assessment is given to determine the person’s needs.

2b. The patient never gets an evaluation
   With no one coordinating care, many patients are not evaluated and don’t proceed with treatment.

3a. The person receives all available supports
   In the best possible outcome, the patient goes on to receive recommended physical and behavioral treatments.

3b. The person receives some available supports
   Because there is limited coordination between services, a patient is likely to miss out on some supports.

3c. Most never receive ANY treatment
   Clearly the worst possible outcome, the majority of patients do not receive treatment after their evaluation.
Centers of Excellence help ensure that people with opioid-related substance use disorder stay in treatment to receive follow-up care and are supported within their communities. Managed care teams coordinate care and provide warm transitions to new parts of the treatment process. Ideally, it would look like this:

**1.** A person suffering from addiction enters a health care facility
- Initial help is sought at one of several possible locations, including hospitals, the office of a primary care physician, or with a behavioral health specialist.

**2.** With informed consent, someone from the health care facility notifies the Center of Excellence team
- The Center of Excellence health team professional arrives on site and completes an assessment to determine needs. The patient is referred to treatment at the appropriate level of care.

**3.** Center of Excellence Team ensures coordination of care
- In addition to the patient and their family (with the patient’s consent), the care management team includes:
  - behavioral & physical health care providers
  - community-based care navigators
  - community-based resources (food, housing, jobs, etc.)

**4.** Person receives all available supports, coordinated by team
- The care team oversees everything, from evaluation to the referral process, through follow-up care. The care team facilitates warm hand-offs between all available behavioral and physical health treatments.