

Referring to Community Support Services

When you refer a patient to community support services it is important to be able to provide tangible, hands-on, real-time information that the patient can use almost immediately. The longer and harder the patient has to work to find a treatment location or information, the lower the chances that he or she will make it into treatment.

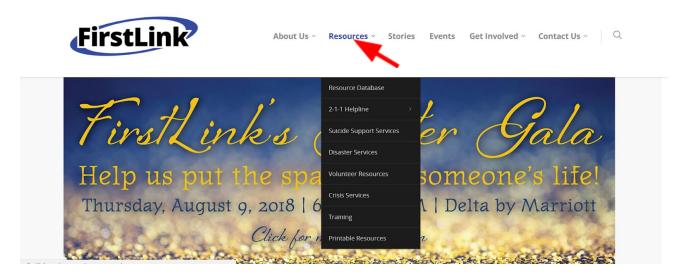
When an individual is referred to treatment (often referred to as chemical dependency treatment, or CD treatment), generally they will first undergo a full evaluation (sometimes also called an assessment) by a licensed chemical dependency counselor, who will determine IF treatment is needed and WHAT LEVEL of treatment would be best. So, your referral of a patient to treatment does not mean that you are diagnosing them with a problem. It just means that you are providing information and potential healthcare resources.

Recommended sources of information:

1) First Link: http://myfirstlink.org/

"First Link assists people to identify, access, and make effective use of community and volunteer resources 24 hours a day. It's the first link to connect people to resources." First link is specific to North Dakota and does not include resources in other states.

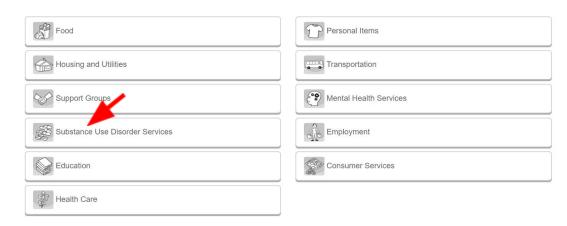
From the First Link homepage, click on the Resources link to access the database





You could provide information about any of the types of resources listed in the menu below to your patients. If you have a concern about their opioid use, you are encouraged to provide information about "Substance Use Disorder Services."

FirstLink 2-1-1 Database of Community Resources



You will have the option to select which type of service.

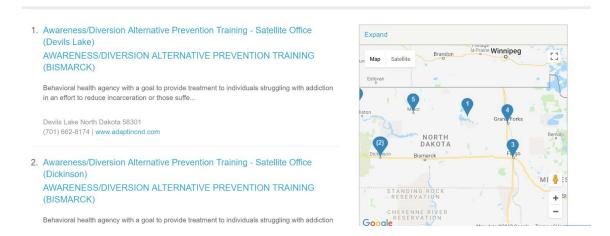
Choose <u>Detox</u> if: your patient is actively intoxicated and is in need of a safe place to go while coming off of a substance.

Choose <u>Substance Use Disorder Treatment</u> if: you want to refer your patient to have an evaluation for substance use disorder. This would be appropriate if you have concern that your patient may be experiencing substance use disorder and/or may be misusing opioids (or other substances). This would also be appropriate if your patient has a prior history of substance use disorder and/or has had a recent chemical dependency evaluation.



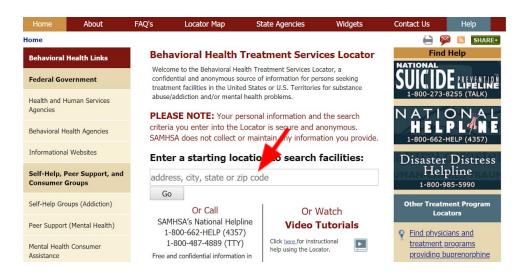
Once you select the type of Substance Use Disorder service, you will be directed to an alphabetical list of treatment facilities. You can also search via the map on the right side of the page. Contact information including phone number and address are given for each facility. You are encouraged to work with your patient to determine a location that would be preferred and to give your patient the full contact information for any treatment facilities/locations he or she may be interested in.





- 2) Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) Treatment Locator: https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/
- **SAMHSA's** "Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator, [is] a confidential and anonymous source of information for persons seeking treatment facilities in the United States or U.S. Territories for substance abuse/addiction and/or mental health problems."

From the Behavioral Health Treatment Services Locator page, search by zip code, call the national hotline or watch tutorials on searching and filtering your searches.



After searching by zip code, you will be directed to an alphabetical list of treatment facilities nearest that location. Contact information including phone number and address are given for each facility. You are encouraged to work with your patient to determine a location that would be preferred and