

SUPERIOR HEALTH QUALITY ALLIANCE INVITES YOU TO TAKE THE PLEDGE

People with substance use disorder (SUD) have a medical condition and need medical care. Yet the language often used to describe people with substance use disorders tends to blame or demean them, creating a stigma that interferes with their opportunity to seek treatment.

Eliminating stigma is one of the first steps to helping people with substance use disorders access the medical care they need.

Examples of person-centered language: To help people with a substance use disorder feel more comfortable asking for the care they need, please consider the use of person-centered language. (See below)



| Historical Stigmatizing Language | Person-Centered Language |
|---|--|
| Addict, junkie, alcoholic, drunk, drug user | Person with a substance use disorder |
| Former addict, reformed addict | Person in recovery |
| Failed a drug test, dirty screen | Tested positive on a drug screen |
| Clean | In remission, abstinent, tested negative on a drug screen |
| Drug abuse / dependence | Use of (illicit drug), misuse of (prescription medication) |



Use the QR code at left to go to Superior Health's **Shine a Light on Stigma** website and take your pledge. You can also learn more about people who have substance use disorders and how to use person-centered language.

Visit <https://www.superiorhealthqa.org/initiatives/qin-qio/shinealightonstigma/> for more information.