Language matters...

4 guidelines to using non-stigmatizing language

1. Use People-first language
   - Person who uses opioids vs. Opioid user OR Addict

2. Use language that reflects the medical nature of substance use disorders
   - Person experiencing problems with substance use vs. Abuser OR Junkie

3. Use language that promotes recovery
   - Person experiencing barriers to accessing services vs. Unmotivated OR Non-compliant

4. Avoid slang and idioms
   - Positive test results OR Negative test results vs. Dirty test results OR Clean test results

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