## **ORAL SUBSTITUTION THERAPY (OST)**

Oral Substitution Therapy (OST) involves substitution of the drug user's primary drug of use with a medically safer drug and the primary route of (injecting) drug use with non-injecting route (oral/sublingual) Why OST? Low chances of HIV and other BBV No Given under OST "craving" medical supervision **Benefits of OST** Low chances of overdose **Family Perspective** Decreased Better family violence relations IDU **Perspective** Quality time Decreased Able to focus on demands for spent No withdrawal; craving other issues (e.g., money family and work) Society **Perspective** Stabilised for Increased Responsible No need for longer period of employment citizen time injecting Increased Less theft/crime productivity

National AIDS Control Organisation
India's voice against AIDS
Ministry of Health & Family Welfare, Government of India
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