



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 24, 2018

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FDA and Kratom Industry Can Agree on One Thing: *Patients Deserve Choice of Care Options Best Suited to Their Needs*

Washington, D.C. — Last week, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved the first non-opioid treatment for managing the withdrawal symptoms associated with opioid use disorder (OUD), which “provides a new option that allows providers to work with patients to select the treatment best suited to an individual’s needs.”

[In the announcement](#), FDA Commissioner Scott Gottlieb, M.D. stated: “As part of our commitment to support patients struggling with addiction, we’re dedicated to encouraging innovative approaches to help mitigate the physiological challenges presented when patients discontinue opioids,” and “will continue to encourage the innovation and development of therapies to help those suffering from opioid addiction transition to lives of sobriety, as well as address the unfortunate stigma that’s sometimes associated with the use of medication-assisted treatments (MAT).” To ensure patient safety, the FDA is requiring the drug to undergo 15 clinical studies after being introduced to the market.

The [Kratom Trade Association](#) agrees with the FDA that consumers should be offered choices in assisting with their recovery and urges it to apply the same reasoning to Kratom as an option for those struggling with OUD. It appears contradictory that the [FDA would issue warnings to Kratom vendors](#) for “unsubstantiated claims that they can treat opioid addiction” despite approving a drug alternative before post-market testing. This unwarranted bias against a natural option in favor of pharmaceuticals takes care alternatives away from consumers.

Studies show that [Kratom has the potential to decrease the effects of opioid withdrawal](#) without the [side effects commonly associated with full opioid agonists](#) that fully engage receptors in the human brain. Kratom is also [not known to cause respiratory depression](#), which is often the cause of opioid overdose deaths. [MAT, despite being the most effective treatment for OUD, is used by fewer than one-third of opioid addiction treatment plans](#), so Kratom’s benefits position it as an accessible, natural alternative.

[More than 2 million Americans safely consume Kratom in the United States](#), with [40 percent saying they have discussed Kratom use with their healthcare provider](#). Responsibly used with the opportunity for further study, Kratom should remain an option for consumers seeking a non-opiate, natural choice to help improve their lives.

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The **Kratom Trade Association** (KTA) is dedicated to the safe and responsible use of Kratom botanical products in the U.S. KTA is committed to regulatory compliance and will develop and promote use of best practices and quality standards for the industry. KTA will support Kratom research initiatives and conduct advocacy efforts to educate policy makers and the public about the benefits of Kratom, as well as dispelling common misconceptions. Visit www.kratomtrade.org for more information.