

# ABOUT OUR PROGRAM

UMass MIND aims to develop new and novel treatments to treat schizophrenia symptoms, substance use and co-occurring medical problems to improve quality of life for people with serious mental illness.



## INTERESTED? CONTACT US!



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<https://www.umassmed.edu/psychiatry/psychotic-disorders-research-program/>



## SCHIZOPHRENIA AND CO-OCCURRING SUBSTANCE USE TREATMENT STUDY



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## ABOUT THE STUDY

The purpose of this study is to see whether brexpiprazole, a recently FDA-approved antipsychotic medication for the treatment of schizophrenia, may help reduce substance use in individuals diagnosed with schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder. The medication is considered investigational for the purpose of the study as it is not approved to reduce substance use in people living with schizophrenia. Some recent studies suggest that brexpiprazole may reduce substance use and cravings for substances by possibly improving your brain's reward system. Patients will stay on their current medication or switch to brexpiprazole. The study duration is 12 weeks long.

## WHAT THE STUDY INVOLVES

- Visits with the research staff every week at **26 Queen Street, Worcester, MA 01610.**
- You will answer questions about your symptoms of schizophrenia as well as your mood and any unusual experiences you might be having.
- You will answer questions about your use of, craving for, and money spent on substances.
- You will receive supportive counseling throughout the study.
- You will attend a total of 14 visits during the study.
- You will be compensated for your time.



## WHO CAN BE IN THE STUDY?

We are looking for people who:

- Have schizophrenia or schizoaffective disorder
- Are ages 18-65
- Currently use substances such as cocaine, marijuana, heroin, and/or alcohol