



FOR INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE & TRIBAL HEALTH

INTRODUCING SPARROW ASCENT

A drug-free, wearable neurostimulation platform for opioid withdrawal recovery

Sparrow Ascent™

Transcutaneous auricular neurostimulation (tAN®)
FDA-cleared for opioid withdrawal

Identifying the withdrawal gap in tribal and IHS care

Patients served by IHS, tribally-operated, and urban Indian health programs often travel a long way to reach opioid treatment. Many arrive already in withdrawal, at clinics carrying severe provider and behavioral health staffing shortages.

Then they travel home again. Distance reduces follow-up adherence, and the next in-person visit may be weeks out, with very few tools the patient can use in between.

88 mi

median distance from **AI/AN-majority communities** to the nearest opioid treatment program, against a national median of 8 miles¹

2.2x

the national **overdose death rate** — 51.6 per 100,000 vs. 23.1 in 2024²

WHAT THAT MEANS FOR YOUR PROGRAMS

A distance care can't cross

Eleven times the national median drive to an opioid treatment program, and up to 99 miles in the most rural AI/AN block groups.¹

Supply below demand

Tribally operated facilities are 1.1% of U.S. treatment capacity while AI/AN patients are 4.3% of admissions.³

A standing federal mandate

IHS SGM 19-01 requires MAT access action plans and names improved management of acute opioid withdrawal among them.⁴

The care model can't reach the patient. A wearable can.

Withdrawal relief that needs neither a bed nor an 88-mile drive can be issued at the first visit and go home with the patient the same day.

There's a new and effective option for OUD treatment

Sparrow Ascent is an FDA-cleared, drug-free wearable that uses transcutaneous auricular neurostimulation (tAN®) to reduce opioid withdrawal symptoms, with no medication, from the first visit through the weeks between appointments.

Across clinical studies in acute opioid withdrawal, patients treated with Sparrow Ascent showed rapid, clinically meaningful improvement:⁵

SYMPTOM RELIEF

93%

of patients had a clinically meaningful drop in withdrawal severity (COWS) by day 3.*

SPEED

89%

of patients felt significant withdrawal relief within the first 60 minutes of therapy.

CONTINUED CARE

100%

of patients who completed detox accepted a referral to continue treatment.

*COWS (Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale), the standard clinical measure of withdrawal severity.

How it works Mechanism of action



Handheld controller and single-use ear electrode array. Used in clinic and at home.

- 1 Delivers patient-controlled electrical stimulation transcutaneously (through the skin on and around the ear).
- 2 Targets cranial nerve branches of the trigeminal and vagus nerves, increasing parasympathetic tone to counter-act hyper fight-or-flight.
- 3 Activates central brain regions to release endogenous opioids (endorphins) that fill the vacant opioid receptors.

Why it helps IHS and tribal health teams Fit to the clinic you already run



Drug-free by design

No DEA registration and nothing scheduled to store. Usable across IHS, tribally-operated, and urban Indian health settings.



Eases the hardest days

Sparrow Ascent supports early stabilization without requiring the patient to be near a specialty SUD clinic.



Works between visits

Portable, take-home therapy goes back with the patient, supporting continuity when the next visit may be weeks away.



A purchase vehicle already exists

Tribal opioid settlement funds — more than \$1.5 billion, tribe-controlled — can be directed to non-pharmacologic treatment.⁶

No DEA registration. Nothing scheduled to handle. Issued at the first visit.

No controlled substance to store or dispense, and the patient leaves with it the same day — no second trip, no wait for a specialty appointment.

CONNECT WITH OUR TEAM

Learn how Sparrow Ascent can help you and your patients.

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References Figures cited inside

- 1 Amiri S, et al. Distance to opioid treatment programs and buprenorphine providers by census block group.
- 2 NCHS Data Brief 549, January 2026. Published AI/AN rates are unadjusted for death-certificate racial misclassification, which NCHS estimates underestimates them by about 34%.
- 3 National Substance Use and Mental Health Services Survey (N-SUMHSS), 2024.
- 4 Indian Health Service Special General Memorandum 19-01.
- 5 Pierson CJ, Khodaparast N, McWade MA, Kuo YF, Houghton DC, Rodriguez SL, Korschgen VL, Cunningham KA, Wilkes DM. The protocol for a randomized, sham-controlled trial of transcutaneous auricular neurostimulation for chronic pain and opioid withdrawal symptoms during a 4-day opioid taper for adults in the United States. *Trials*. 2025 Oct 16;26(1):421. doi: 10.1186/s13063-025-09171-4. PMID: 41102821; PMCID: PMC12532841.
- 6 Tribal opioid settlements, cumulative allocation across settlement agreements.

Sparrow Ascent™ is FDA-cleared for use as an aid to reduce the symptoms of opioid withdrawal. Sparrow™, tAN®, and Spark Biomedical® are marks of Spark Biomedical, Inc. Refer to labeling for indications, contraindications, warnings, and instructions for use.