

Substance Use Disorder Program

Bridge clinic expansion

Our mission: Implement a standardized approach for diagnosing and treating Substance Use Disorder (SUD) across Mass General Brigham (MGB) that is consistent with how we manage other health conditions, aligns with current evidence, and focuses on reducing racial disparities. Bridge clinics support a trauma informed care model and provides low barrier, immediate access, and person-centered care for substance use disorder treatment.

Bridge Clinic Core Components



- **Immediate Access:** The clinic offers access to care within 24-48 hours of a referral and accepts walk-in patients and provides immediate treatment initiation.
- **Low Threshold:** The clinic has a highly flexible schedule which allows for frequent visits and high touch. Patients can access Bridge clinic care without having to meet any requirements and have the option to receive care via telemedicine and ongoing walk-in and drop-in care.
- **Person-Centered:** The goals are patient-defined and patient-driven.
- **Transitional Care:** Patients receive brief treatment, stabilization, and care coordination with the goal to bridge patients to ongoing care setting. The Bridge clinic is bi-directional with an open-door policy, meaning a patient can always return, if needed.

Model of Care



- **Identification:** A patient with SUD may be identified through screening or during a clinical presentation with a substance-related condition, for example in the ED, hospital, primary, or specialty care setting.
- **Connection:** A patient is immediately connected to one of the MGB regional Bridge clinics for assessment by the care team.
- **Treatment Initiation and Stabilization:** Bridge clinic providers may initiate medication, a therapist may evaluate and start brief treatment, and other care team members provide a variety of other supports, which may include recovery coaching, infectious disease screening, and mental health care.
- **Bridge to Ongoing Care Setting:** Once a patient is stabilized, they are transitioned to a long-term, community-based treatment setting, such as primary care.
- **Ongoing access:** A patient may be re-referred to the Bridge clinic at any time.

Improving Outcomes



- **Decreasing Disparities:** Bridge clinics will aim to increase equitable access to SUD treatment across the system for all patients with an outcomes-driven approach to eliminating racial and ethnic disparities.
- **Focusing on High Need Areas:** The expansion and creation of Bridge clinics are targeting diverse areas with gaps in SUD treatment. Existing Bridge clinics will be expanded at MGH, BWH, and Salem Hospital. A new Bridge clinic is established at PMA in Haverhill.

BWH Bridge Clinic

75 Francis Street, Suite 159
Boston, MA 02115
Phone: (617) 278-0172

MGH Bridge Clinic

55 Fruit Street, Cox 1, Suite 110
Boston, MA 02114
Phone: (617) 643-8281

Merrimack Valley Bridge Clinic

600 Primrose St. Suite 100
Haverhill, MA 01830
Phone: (978) 469-5536

Salem Hospital Bridge Clinic

55 Highland Ave Suite 201
Salem, MA 01970
Phone: (339) 229-7683

