MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

June 27th, 2023 **BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER** Vol. 77



BILL TO TOUGHEN PENALTIES AGAINST FENTANYL DEALERS ADVANCES, DESPITE OUTCRY

The New Jersey State Senate is preparing to pass a bill that will increase penalties for fentanyl dealers, despite being warned of the consequences of such a bill. The bill will make selling or making at least 10 grams of fentanyl a first-degree offense, with a maximum fine of $500,000 and up to 20 years in prison. The bill will also allow police to charge someone with second-and-third degree crimes if they are caught with even lower amounts of fentanyl than previous limits. Critics are speaking out against the bill, warning that the bill targets the same people lawmakers claim they want to help. Others warn that drug penalties will only increase mass incarceration and arrest, especially among Black and Brown communities. The bill is now on its way to the full Senate for a vote.

WHAT'S INSIDE

UPCOMING EVENTS

6/28: MAT Lunch Hour

7/6: ECHO: Naloxone Administration in the Age of Fentanyl

7/20: OBAT Monthly SUD Navigation Support Calls

Pharmacist's Role in NJ Naloxone 365 Program

HEADLINES

Scoping Review of 3 decades of Research in SUD Treatment for SSP Participants

Perspectives of Clinicians/Staff at OUD Tx Settings on Linkages With ED-Initiated Bupe Programs

Relationship of PrEP Beliefs to Perceived Personal, Interpersonal & Structural Benefits & Barriers to Use in Women Who Inject Drugs

DOH Adopting New Rules at Harm Reduction Centers

RESOURCES

Health Alert: Xylazine in the New Jersey Illicit Drug Supply

UPCOMING EVENTS



MAT LUNCH HOUR

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28TH, 2023 (12-1 PM)

Co-hosted with Camden Coalition, the MAT lunch hours are hour-long virtual meetings to hear from experts and discuss the latest in clinical and non-clinical issues affecting the MAT patient population. Providers, OBAT navigators, peers, advocates, and other stakeholders working in NJ's substance use disorder field are welcome to attend. MAT Lunch Hours are held every other month on third Wednesdays at 12 PM.

OBAT MONTHLY SUD NAVIGATION SUPPORT CALLS

THURSDAY, JULY 20TH, 2023 (12-1 PM)

In addition to Camden Coalition's main SUD Navigator Training, they are offering monthly resource calls and skills labs to provide ongoing opportunity for OBAT navigators and other SUD navigators / case managers to continue learning through:

- Hour long deep dive of particular content areas;
- Discussion of (de-identified) patient cases and support thinking through patient engagement strategies, potential resources, and how to practice self-care while doing this work;
- Presentations and sharing updated resources about relevant topics such as harm reduction, strategies for identifying new community resources, telemedicine during the COVID-19 pandemic, and more.

SUD PROJECT ECHO: NALOXONE ADMINISTRATION IN THE AGE OF FENTANYL

THURSDAY, JULY 6TH, 2023 (12-1 PM)

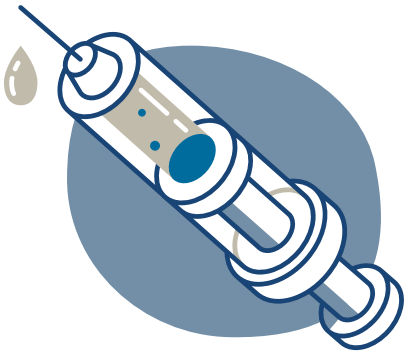
At every live ECHO session we explore active patient challenges from multiple perspectives. We each hold a piece of the puzzle and everyone is welcome to share experiences. You'll meet practitioners from across the state through a simple video interface and become part of a collegial community. You'll have a comfortable place to return and build on what you're learning, month to month.

THE COMMUNITY PHARMACIST'S ROLE IN NJ'S NALOXONE 365 PROGRAM

Naloxone, an opioid antidote, is a vital harm reduction tool that has significant barriers to access due to cost and stigma. DMHAS has implemented the NJ "Naloxone 365" program to remove barriers to this lifesaving medication by making it more accessible to individuals requesting naloxone in community pharmacies. The main objective of this program is to explain the importance of "Naloxone 365," so that community pharmacies are provided with the tools and information to effectively execute this program. *This free course is presented by our Clinical Pharmacist/Academic Detailer, Dr. Clement Chen, and provided by the NJ Pharmacists Association, and the NJ DHS. Credit will be awarded only after successful completion of the timed webinar, quizzes and an evaluation.*

LITERATURE

THREE DECADES OF RESEARCH IN SUBSTANCE USE DISORDER TREATMENT FOR SYRINGE SERVICES PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS: A SCOPING REVIEW OF THE LITERATURE



Syringe Services Programs (SSPs) play a critical role in harm reduction and the health of people who inject drugs as they help reduce HIV and HCV transmission, provide sterile syringes for safer substance use, provide access to other health and supportive services, and serve as a safe space for marginalized individuals. This scoping review sought to review evidence for SSPs as an entry point for SUD treatment, particularly to co-located onsite MOUD. They found that SSPs were associated with linkage to SUD treatment and that motivational enhancement therapy along with financial incentives were effective in linking participants to MOUD or any type of substance use treatment. They also found positive outcomes among individuals who initiated MOUD.

PERSPECTIVES OF CLINICIANS AND STAFF AT COMMUNITY-BASED OPIOID USE DISORDER TREATMENT SETTINGS ON LINKAGES WITH EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT-INITIATED BUPRENORPHINE PROGRAMS

Emergency department (ED) initiated buprenorphine is cost-effective and enables timely buprenorphine dispensing. However, patients receiving buprenorphine treatment in EDs face many barriers to continuing MOUD in the community due to ineffective linkage processes from ED to community based MOUD providers. This qualitative study explored the perspectives and experiences of community-based clinicians and staff regarding ED- initiated buprenorphine. Findings showed that ED clinicians had many concerns about prescribing MOUD, diversion of medications, lack of ability to access treatment for co-occurring modalities, lack of ability to follow-up with community sites without addressing patients' social determinants of health, and lack of education on addictions and MOUD. Study participants emphasized the need for peer navigators. These findings highlight facilitators for promoting linkage of patients receiving ED-initiated buprenorphine to community-based programs for ongoing MOUD.

LITERATURE (CONT).

THE RELATIONSHIP OF PREP BELIEFS TO PERCEIVED PERSONAL, INTERPERSONAL AND STRUCTURAL BENEFITS AND BARRIERS TO PREP USE IN WOMEN WHO INJECT DRUGS

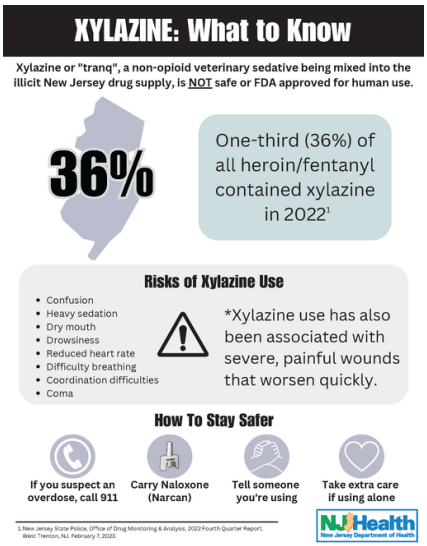
This descriptive study aimed to identify potential factually inaccurate beliefs about Pre-Exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) and how those beliefs may be associated with other determinants of PrEP use. This study found that those with inaccurate beliefs about PrEP, including lack of effectiveness, difficulty to use PrEP, were less likely to say they would use it. Perceptions about barriers and benefits of PrEP use, including interpersonal and structural barriers such as drug use stigma and negative healthcare experiences were also barriers to PrEP use. Findings suggest that there is a possibility that inaccurate beliefs about PrEP may have a strong influence in communities lacking access to traditional healthcare, leaving them to resort to emergency care which may lack quality care and accuracy of HIV prevention information. Future studies should evaluate beyond perceptions and look into structural barriers and social determinants of health such as housing.

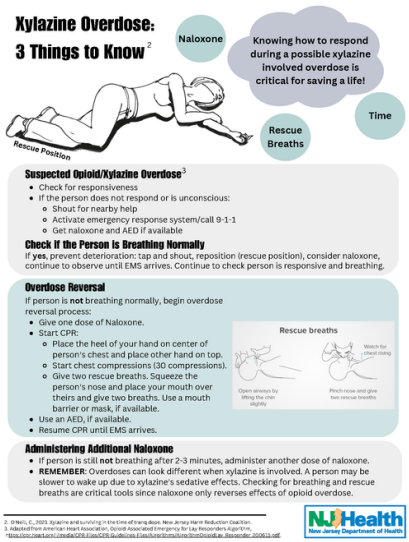
DOH ADOPTING NEW RULES AT HARM REDUCTION CENTERS

The Department of Health is repealing the existing New Jersey Administrative Code (N.J.A.C 63) Sterile Syringe Access Program Demonstration Project Rules and is adopting new rules at Harm Reduction centers. In 2022, Governor Murphy approved P.L. 2021, c. 396, which amended the Bloodborne Disease Harm Reduction Act to broaden harm reduction services to include other services in addition to access to sterile syringes. P.L. 2021 c. 396 also eliminated municipality authority over the establishment of harm reduction programs, placing it in the hands of Department of Health. The Department of Health is now repealing existing N.J.A.C. 8:63 Sterile Syringe Access Program Demonstration Project Rules, and adopting, and concurrently proposing to readopt, new rules at N.J.A.C. 8:63 Harm Reduction Center. They are promoting rules establishing registration and operational requirements for entities seeking to register as harm reduction centers in accordance with the Act and to establish the criteria for registration approval. In the linked Public Health Council notes, the specially adopted new rules can be found on pg 15 of Harm Reduction Services.



RESOURCES







XYLAZINE IN THE NEW JERSEY ILLICIT DRUG SUPPLY HEALTH ALERT

Xylazine or "tranq" is becoming increasingly more prevalent in the illicit drug supply throughout the US. Xylazine is a veterinary tranquilizer that is not approved for human use and is not an opioid. On April 12, 2023, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy officially designated fentanyl adulterated or associated with xylazine as an emerging threat to the US and it is increasingly identified in NJ's drug supply. On November 8, 2022, the US FDA released an alert warning health care professionals about the risks associated with xylazine, including severe wounds, dependence and withdrawal, and complicated toxicity, given that naloxone is not effective in reversing xylazine overdoses since it is not an opioid. Accompanying this health alert is a flyer with basic information about the substance including wound care, safer use, overdose reversal best practices, and harm reduction resources to distribute to people who use drugs and who may be encountering xylazine.

Xylazine: What to Know Flyer
Xylazine Public Health Alert Document

MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT
CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

24/7 MAT Provider Hotline: 844-HELP OUD (844-435-7683)

Northern NJ MAT COE Website & Email
Southern NJ MAT COE Website & Email