MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

April 18th, 2023 **BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER** Vol. 72



AAAP STRONGLY URGES REMOVAL OF A 30-DAY IN-PERSON REQUIREMENT FOR BUPRENORPHINE FOR THOSE WHO HAVE NOT RECEIVED AN IN-PERSON EVALUATION

During the public comment period for DEA's proposal, AAAP wrote in support of the steps that the Biden Administration is taking to expand telehealth for buprenorphine beyond the COVID-19 public health emergency. However, they strongly urge the removal of the 30-day in-person requirement after an initial telehealth encounter.

WHAT'S INSIDE

UPCOMING EVENTS

4/19: SUD in Housing Learning Collaborative

4/28: ECHO - Screening for SUD

5/11: Untreated & Unheard: The Addiction Crisis in America Screening

HEADLINES

Investigating the Impact of Prescribed Opioids, Benzodiazepines on Veterans

Treatment Access for OUD Among Women with Medicaid in Florida

Evidence for Minimum Duration of Treatment for OUD is More than a Year

Implementation Facilitation Strategies to Facilitate ED-Based Initiated Buprenorphine for OUD

Correction from Issue #71: Association of Receipt of OUD-Related Telehealth Services

RESOURCES

Patient Guide: Precipitated Withdrawal

Evening ECHO Series: Caring for Pregnant & Parenting People with an OUD

UPCOMING EVENTS



SUD IN HOUSING LEARNING COLLABORATIVE

WEDNESDAY 4/19/23, AT 10AM

Join the Northern COE in our newest training initiative, for all stakeholders and staff working with individuals experiencing homelessness. These quarterly statewide trainings will provide information on substance use disorder, mental health, self-care, and approaching housing through harm reduction.



SUD PROJECT ECHO: SCREENING FOR SUD IN THE PRIMARY CARE SETTING

FRIDAY 4/28/23, AT 12PM

Project ECHO is straight-forward, specific and applicable. At every live 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 will build on what you're learning, month to month.

UNTREATED & UNHEARD: THE ADDICTION CRISIS IN AMERICA

THURSDAY, MAY 11, 2023 FROM 6-8:30PM @
BETHANY BAPTIST CHURCH
275 WEST MARKET STREET
NEWARK, NJ 07103

This is a free screening and panel discussion featuring Maia Szalavitz, a NY Times Reporter and Author. Hear unheard stories of the addiction crisis in American through the lens of families whose lives have been forever changed. The criminalization of substance use affects every system and often fails marginalized and disenfranchised communities.



RECENT NEWS

TREATMENT ACCESS FOR OUD AMONG WOMEN WITH MEDICAID IN FLORIDA

This was a secret-shopper study examining access to MOUD by treatment type (methadone vs. buprenorphine) and pregnancy status of women. Over 500 calls were made to clinicians of which only 42% reached a treatment provider. Pregnant and non-pregnant women were less likely to obtain an appointment with Medicaid coverage by a buprenorphine-waivered provider (BWP) while approximately 40% of OTPs offered appointments to these patients, compared to only 17% of BWP. Furthermore, pregnant people were more likely to be denied for appointments overall. **This study shows the continued access to pregnant people, despite strong evidence of the importance of MOUD in this population.**

EVIDENCE FOR MINIMUM DURATION OF TREATMENT FOR OUD IS MORE THAN A YEAR

This viewpoint article summarizes the rationale of how the six-month treatment duration for OUD came about. It provides evidence, along with where more research is needed, to identify how long the minimum treatment duration should be.



INVESTIGATING THE IMPACT OF PRESCRIBED OPIOIDS, BENZODIAZEPINES ON VETERANS

Are Veterans taking both opioids for chronic pain and benzodiazepines for anxiety and insomnia at an increased risk of unintentional overdose and death as well as suicide? **The Rutgers Biomedical and Health Sciences Chancellor, Brain Strom, is leading an investigation of this very issue, chairing a committee to "quantify the effects" of taking these medications simultaneously from prescriptions provided by the VA on the risk of death among veterans.**

RECENT NEWS

ASSOCIATION OF RECEIPT OF OUD-RELATED TELEHEALTH SERVICES AND MOUD WITH FATAL DRUG OVERDOSES AMONG MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES BEFORE AND DURING COVID-19

Please find a revised summary for this article in Newsletter #71: This is a cohort study investigating the pre-pandemic and pandemic cohorts of Medicare beneficiaries, their receipt of OUD-related telehealth service, and receipt of MOUD. It sought to identify whether there were associated reduced odds of fatal drug overdose. The pre-pandemic cohort included over 105k patients, and the pandemic cohort included over 70k patients. It found that the rate of all-cause mortality was greater in the pandemic cohort, as well as the rate of fatal drug overdoses. However, **receipt of OUD-related telehealth services was associated with a significantly lower odds for fatal drug overdose, as was receipt of MOUD from OTPs and receipt of buprenorphine in office-based settings**. The study, therefore, addresses the importance of and strategy of employing telehealth during the pandemic to ensure access to treatment. This study has significant implications given that the COVID-19 emergency is ending and that the DEA is still finalizing plans for telehealth beyond the emergency.



IMPLEMENTATION FACILITATION STRATEGIES TO FACILIATE ED-BASED INITIATED BUPRENORPHINE FOR OUD

Implementation facilitation, a multicomponent strategy that includes local champions (for OUD referrals), developed protocols, and provided learning collaboratives and performance feedback, was shown to be more effective than 60-minute grand rounds.

RESOURCES



NEW PATIENT RESOURCE: EXPLAINING PRECIPITATED WITHDRAWAL

Do you have patients who you have struggled to re-initiate buprenorphine because of precipitated withdrawal? Have you had a difficult time explaining precipitated withdrawal to your patients? If either of these questions is a 'yes,' please check out our new resource for you to review and share with patients titled: "Does buprenorphine "really" cause bad withdrawal?"

This guide is written for patients to help them understand why precipitated withdrawal occurs and how to reduce the risk. The best way to use this guide is to review the handout with them. If you have any questions or have in-the-moment clinical questions, you can always call our 24/7 hotline at 1-844-HELP-OUD.



EVENING ECHO SERIES: CARING FOR PREGNANT & PARENTING PEOPLE WITH AN OUD

SELECT TUESDAYS FROM 6:30PM-7:30PM

Join the MCH OUD ECHO at a special evening time for practitioners to learn and discuss the latest updates on helping pregnant patients with substance use disorders and their unborn babies. In this ECHO, you will understand how to build a more trusting, empowering relationship for pregnant people with an OUD. You will learn best practices for treatment and identify helpful community resources with a panel of Maternal Child Health and Addiction Medicine specialists and your peers. Help ensure that NJ mothers can give birth safely with the treatment and support they receive within their community.

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

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