MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT
CENTERS OF EXCELLENCE

March 31st, 2023 **BIWEEKLY NEWSLETTER** Vol. 71

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Patient Guide: Precipitated Withdrawal

SNJ COE Expands Statewide Services



FDA APPROVES OTC 4MG OVER-THE-COUNTER NALOXONE NASAL SPRAY

The FDA approved naloxone 4mg nasal spray for over-the-counter non-prescription use, demonstrating the FDA"s commitment to ensuring greater access to naloxone across the U.S. It will be sold directly to consumers in places such as pharmacies, convenience stores, grocery stores, gas stations, and online. The timeline for availability and price is still to be determined.

UPCOMING EVENTS



MATERNAL CHILD HEALTH AND OUD ECHO SERIES: HOT OFF THE PRESSES: NO WAIVER NEEDED TO PRESCRIBE BUPRENORPHINE

TUESDAY, APRIL 4TH FROM 6:30PM-7:30PM

In this ECHO series, 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.

SUD PROJECT ECHO: BUPRENORPHINE INDUCTION IN THE AGE OF FENTANYL

FRIDAY, APRIL 7TH FROM 12:00PM-1:00 PM

This ECHO series is focused on best practices and current thinking in a safe space for peer-to-peer learning and open dialogue. Led by medical experts and psychiatrists from the New Jersey Medical School and Rowan Medicine, discussion topics include understanding specific substances, integrating substance use disorder treatment in primary care settings, and medication-assisted approaches.



RECENT NEWS

INCIDENCE OF PRECIPITATED WITHDRAWAL DURING A MULTISITE EMERGENCY DEPT.-INITIATED BUPRENORPHINE CLINICAL TRIAL IN THE ERA OF FENTANYL

This is an observational cohort study looking to report the incidence of precipitated withdrawal as part of an ongoing clinical trial that compared sublingual buprenorphine with a 7-day extended-release injectable form of buprenorphine. 28 EDs across the U.S. were included with data spanning from June 30th, 2022 to October 26, 2022. Patients were randomized to receive the traditional sublingual buprenorphine induction or the extended-release buprenorphine 24mg (based on the equivalent of 24mg extended-release equivalency with 16mg SL) and observed for 2 hours. Those with a COWS score of at least 8 received 8mg of SL buprenorphine in the ED and then discharged whereas those with a COWS score of 4-7 received specific instructions of inducting with 12mg the first day, and then 16mg/day. It found that of the 1200 patients enrolled, there were **only 9 cases of precipitated withdrawal, representing less than 1% of patients,** and that there was **not a difference based on what type of buprenorphine received**. The key takeaway is that **buprenorphine access should not be hindered, especially in the ED, for fear of precipitating withdrawal**.

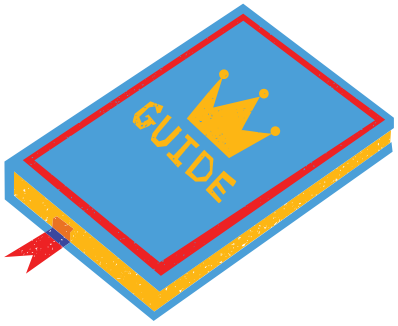
ASSOCIATION OF RECEIPT OF OUD-RELATED TELEHEALTH SERVICES AND MOUD WITH FATAL DRUG OVERDOSES AMONG MEDICARE BENEFICIARIES BEFORE AND DURING COVID-19

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 was an 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, reduced receipt of MOUD from OTPs and buprenorphine from 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.

RESOURCES

NEW: OBAT BILLING GUIDE DEVELOPED BY THE CAMDEN COALITION

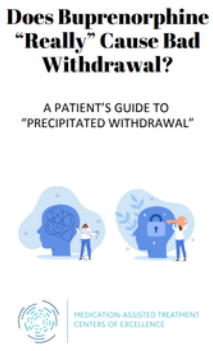


This guide is meant for New Jersey OBAT providers — and their billing offices — who conduct OBAT services and bill managed care organizations (MCOs).

The OBAT model is designed to enhance access and improve utilization of medications for addiction treatment (MAT) services for Medicaid beneficiaries by establishing additional supports and reducing administrative barriers to providing addiction services in ambulatory settings. Using a medication-first approach, the model makes it possible for patients to access medications without first engaging in behavioral health services. OBAT is open to all specialties, not just primary care.

This resource guide was prepared by the Camden Coalition with support from New Jersey Medicaid's Office of Behavioral Health following a pilot program to investigate and improve OBAT navigator billing issues between providers and MCO partners.

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 to help patients 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.

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

RESOURCES

SOUTHERN NJ MATCOE EXPANDS STATEWIDE TRAINING, EDUCATION, & CONSULT SERVICES

TAs part of the NJ MAT Centers of Excellence mission to increase statewide capacity to provide standard of care treatment for patients with substance use disorder through mentoring and education, our partners at Cooper University Health Care and Rowan-Virtua School of Osteopathic Medicine are offering a comprehensive training, education, and consultation series sponsored by the New Jersey Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services.

The training and education series consists of didactic in-person trainings and virtual "live" webinars, asynchronous webinars, and other forms of content that will use a standardized, evidence-based curricula to inform physicians and other health care professionals. Content will expound upon engaging patients in MAT and harm reductionist strategies, among other topics, in compliance with federal and state statutory and regulatory guidelines. The consultation series consists of "office hours" in virtual capacity, and "elbow-to-elbow" consultation services both on-site at Cooper and Rowan Medicine, in order to further address clinical practice issues with physicians and other health care professionals.

For more information on the next didactics, please visit https://shop.rowan.edu/store/events/listings/22433.

For inquiries pertaining to the series and related SNJMATCOE training and education, please contact Patricia Fortunato, SNJMATCOE Content Manager, at fortunato-**patricia@cooperhealth.edu.**