

MATTERS - Efficiently Linking Substance Use Disorder and Mental Health Patients to Care

Category: Oral Presentation

Abstract Body

Patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) frequently access the healthcare system through hospital emergency departments (EDs) in times of crisis. An effective treatment for patients with OUD is medication assisted treatment (MAT) and connection to follow-up care in a community-based clinic for people with substance use disorders (SUDs). The Medication for Addiction Treatment and Electronic Referrals (MATTERS) Network was created in 2017 in Western New York and has since expanded across New York State and is positioned to be offered across the United States. The program is designed to enable ED-initiated buprenorphine and referral through a secured web-based portal to an OUD clinic. Not all people with OUD experiencing a crisis present to EDs, so the MATTERS Network expanded to include police departments, drug courts, and emergency medical services (EMS) in the assessment and referral processes. The MATTERS Network also supplies participating EMS units with leave behind Naloxone for patients who may require it. Similarly, the program recently expanded to include referrals from corrections and inpatient units to increase the breadth of opportunities for access to MAT and continuing care. Those expansion sites, along with self-referrals through a mobile application, are facilitated by the use of telemedicine so patients can see a board-certified emergency physician who can help them initiate buprenorphine and connect to continuing care. People with OUD are likely to have co-occurring mental health and substance use disorders (SUDs). People who connect with continuing community care are given options for clinics to treat all of their concerns, not just their OUD, to provide a comprehensive treatment approach. Additionally, MATTERS provides naloxone and fentanyl test strips at no cost. The program is designed to be equally easy to implement and successful at tertiary care centers along with rural, critical access hospitals.

Key Words

- Opiate Agonist Therapy
- Opioids/Opiates
- Substance Use Disorder (general)
- Technology
- Withdrawal Management

Learning Objective # 1

Understand the unique setup of the MATTERS Network and its ability to link people with OUD to effective treatment, regardless of health inequities

Learning Objective # 2

Explain the steps necessary for inclusion of EMS in community outreach and harm reduction for people with OUD

Reference # 1

Clemency BM, Hoopsick RA, Burnett SJ, Kahn LS, Lynch JJ. Implementing a Novel Statewide Network to Support Emergency Department-initiated Buprenorphine Treatment. *West J Emerg Med.* 2022;23(4):451. doi: 10.5811/westjem.2022.3.54680

Reference # 2

D’Onofrio G, O’Connor PG, Pantalon MV, et al. Emergency Department–Initiated Buprenorphine/Naloxone Treatment for Opioid Dependence: A Randomized Clinical Trial. *JAMA.* 2015;313(16):1636. doi:10.1001/jama.2015.3474

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