

# Providers and Stakeholders' perspectives on how injectable opioid agonist treatment (iOAT) care can be improved

Category: Poster Presentation (in person)

## Abstract Body

**Background:** With the continued expansion of iOAT care across Canada and worldwide, service provider and stakeholder perspectives on iOAT care are needed to inform program optimization. The present study aimed to better understand stakeholder and provider perspectives on how iOAT can be improved to better meet clients' needs.

**Methods:** This study was a secondary analysis of a study conducted in Vancouver, Canada. Semi-structured interviews (n=11), email correspondence (n=2), a focus group (n=4), and one regional meeting were conducted with iOAT providers and stakeholders in Canada and internationally to expand on attributes identified by clients and to receive feedback on 'How iOAT can be improved to better meet clients' needs?'. Coding and analysis followed a qualitative thematic and interpretive description approach to identify key themes. A conceptual framework was defined by synthesizing core categories to distinguish the most salient themes.

**Results:** Overall, stakeholders agreed with the priorities put forth from clients' as to how iOAT care could be improved. However, stakeholders expressed a sense of urgency for not only how iOAT is offered, but also for addiction care to be more patient-centered. Findings from stakeholder narratives highlight the importance they attribute to client autonomy (a say in medication type and formulation), individualized care (accessibility, gender and culturally informed care), tensions between providers and the system (policies, governing structures, etc., that establish, facilitate, and determine how iOAT is delivered in Canada) as well as power dynamics between providers and service users.

**Conclusions:** Providers and stakeholders are committed to seeing the needs of service users met but often feel constrained by system-level regulations in their ability to provide person-centered and individualized care. Service providers and stakeholders felt that providing iOAT care focused on autonomy and flexibility was a way to make treatment accessible and individualized. Findings provide key insights into stakeholder perspectives of iOAT and offer pragmatic ways to support stakeholders in advancing person-centered care.

## Key Words

- Opioids/Opiates
- Prevention/Harm Reduction
- Substance Use Disorder (general)

## Learning Objective # 1

Attendees should know stakeholders key priorities in improving iOAT care including core areas to promote person-centered care such as accessibility, individualized care, and autonomy.

## Learning Objective # 2

Attendees should be able to identify tangible suggestions to enhance iOAT care such as care that is gender and culturally informed, enhanced accessibility, and managing client-provider power dynamics.

## Reference # 1

Tianna Magel, Elizabeth Matzinger, Sarah Blawatt, Scott Harrison, Scott MacDonald, Sherif Amara, Rebecca Metcalfe, Nick Bansback, David Byres, Martin Schechter & Eugenia Oviedo-Joekes (2023) How injectable opioid agonist treatment (iOAT) care could be improved? service providers and stakeholders' perspectives, *Drugs: Education, Prevention and Policy*, DOI: 10.1080/09687637.2023.2176287

## Reference # 2

Sophia Dobischok, Rebecca K Metcalfe, Elizabeth Angela Matzinger, Kurt Lock, Scott Harrison, Scott MacDonald, Sherif Amara, Martin T Schechter, Nick Bansback & Eugenia Oviedo-Joekes (2022) Feasibility of Testing Client Preferences for Accessing Injectable Opioid Agonist Treatment (iOAT): A Pilot Study, *Patient Preference and Adherence*, 16:, 3405-3413, DOI: 10.2147/PPA.S391532

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