Models of care surrounding the use of telemedicine to provide medication for opioid use disorder.

Abstract Body

Objective. COVID-19 has contributed to an unprecedented and rapidly growing evidence base for telemedicine facilitated provision of medication for opioid use disorder (TMOUD). Our first objective with this work was to characterise how TMOUD was defined, described and utilised across different models of OUD care and jurisdictions. Our second objective was to define models of TMOUD provision. Our third objective was to use this classification to inform future policy and practice around the use of telemedicine in providing care for OUD.

Methods. We conducted a scoping review up to and including April 2023 using the OVID Medline, CINAHL, and PsycINFO databases. A data extraction form was developed to collect and categorise a range of descriptive characteristics of each service. We applied the Scottish MAT standards 1-5 which focuses on MOUD provision to derive measures to evaluate TMOUD quality and performance.

Results. From 45 peer reviewed articles, we identified 40 discrete services which provided TMOUD. 33 were US-based, three from Canada, and one each from India, Ireland, the UK, and Norway. We defined and characterised four overlapping models of TMOUD. These were TMOUD to facilitate inclusion health, to facilitate transitions in care, to meet complex healthcare needs, and to improve service resilience and quality. For each TMOUD model characteristic, we have suggested performance and quality measures for benchmarking and improvement purposes.

Conclusions. A nuanced and detailed understanding of how TMOUD has been delivered across jurisdictions contributes to future policy decisions on how this intervention should be commissioned, funded and remunerated and evaluated.

Key Words (Max 5)

- COVID - 19
- International Perspectives
- Opiate Agonist Therapy
- Opioids/Opiates
- Pharmacological Interventions

- Policy
- Prevention/Harm Reduction
- Quality improvement
- Technology
- Treatment models/programs

Learning Objective #1

To understand the potential of TMOUD to contribute to models of OUD care including facilitating inclusion health, transitions and continuity of care, to meet complex healthcare needs, and to improve service resilience and quality.

Learning Objective #2

To translate these defined TMOUD models of care into producing measurable outcomes, facilitating benchmarking and quality improvement of services for people with OUD.

Reference #1

Tay Wee Teck, J., Butner, J., Baldacchino, A. 2023. Understanding the use of telemedicine across different Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) treatment models: A scoping review. Journal of Telemedicine and Telecare. Accepted-In Press.

Reference #2

Tay Wee Teck, J., Zlatkute, G., Perez, A., Dritschel, H., Ghosh, A., Potenza, M.N., Ambekar, A., Ekhtiari, H., Stein, D., Khazaal, Y. and Arunogiri, S., 2023. Key implementation factors in telemedicine-delivered medications for opioid use disorder: a scoping review informed by normalisation process theory. The Lancet Psychiatry, 10(1), pp.50-64.

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