



Update: HHS X-Waiver Removal Practice Guidelines Will No Longer Be Enacted

The move to eliminate the X-waiver for DEA-registered physicians has been reversed as the announcement was "made prematurely." Work will continue to determine alternative options to increase access to buprenorphine, which may include reducing or removing requirements of the X-waiver. For now, prescribers will need the additional X-waiver training and DEA-registration to prescribe buprenorphine. Please see the official statement below.

[Click for the Statement](#)



MAT Lunch Hour: HIV Prevention and PrEP for Patients with Substance Use Disorders

Join us for the next MAT Lunch Hour to network, collaborate, and discuss.

The next MAT lunch hour will feature Dr. Rachel Ehrman-Dupre from Cooper University Healthcare, who will be joining us to present on HIV prevention and PrEP in those with substance use disorders.

All are welcome!

Next Forum: Wednesday, February 3rd, 12pm-1pm

[Register Here](#)

Sustaining an Effective MOUD Practice for Medically Challenging Patients

PCSS-X is a project within PCSS that provides implementation technical assistance to healthcare organizations and providers for the use and/or expansion of substance use disorder (SUD) treatment services, including medications for opioid use disorder (MOUD). This program is free and you are welcome to participate in any of the sessions.



Next Session: Thursday, February 4th, 3pm-4pm

Objectives: This session will review best practices for delivering buprenorphine to a range of patient populations, including those who are pregnant, those with acute pain and chronic pain, and those electing to taper their dose.



[Register Here](#)

Previous MAT and Continuous Quality Improvement ECHO Video Sessions Posted for Viewing



If you missed any of the previous MAT or continuous quality improvement ECHO sessions, they are now posted on our [Northern COE Website webinar archive](#). Please note that you are only able to receive CE credits by attending LIVE ECHO sessions.

The first 2021 ECHO session is on Friday, Feb 5th, 12pm-1pm

Topic: Low-Barrier MOUD

Participants will be able to:

- Define low barrier MOUD
- Identify the barriers to a low-threshold approach to MOUD
- Understand the seven principles of low barrier MOUD
- Utilize an evidence-based approach to buprenorphine

[Register Here](#)

Register for the Navigator Support Event



Similar to MAT Lunch hours, Navigator Support Events are ongoing opportunities that occur every two months for OBAT navigators to continue learning through de-identified patient cases, discussion of patient engagement strategies, and sharing of updated resources about relevant topics.

Next Event: Friday, February 5th, 12pm-1pm

[Register Here](#)

The Economic Burden of Opioid Use Disorder and Fatal Opioid Overdose in the U.S., 2017

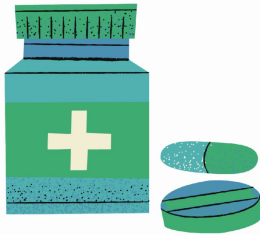
This is a review of the costs of fatal overdose from all opioids and opioid use disorder based on the incidence of overdose deaths and prevalence of past-year opioid use disorder for 2017. It showed that costs in 2017 were estimated to be \$1.02 trillion, with much of the burden due to reduced quality of life (\$390 billion) and value of life lost due to fatal opioid overdose (\$480.7 billion), accounting for >85% of the economic burden. The results of this study help to compare the cost of implementing strategies to prevent and treat OUD and prevent fatal overdose to the benefit of reduced OUD

and overdose cases.



[Click for the Article](#)

Bupropion and Naltrexone in Methamphetamine Use Disorder



In this recent article published in the New England Journal of Medicine, the use of bupropion and extended-release injectable naltrexone was shown to have a greater response than placebo for negative methamphetamine urine drug tests. While promising, those who were being treated with OUD were excluded. Thus, additional research and options for therapy for those with concurrent OUD are needed.

Given the rise of psychostimulants and the need for therapies for those suffering from both a stimulant and opioid use disorder, please fill out our brief survey to help us understand whether your practice is seeing increasing numbers of stimulant use disorder and whether you would like more clinical education in this topic.

[Click for the Abstract](#)

[Click for the Survey](#)

Racial/Ethnic Disparities in Unintentional Fatal and Nonfatal Emergency Medical Services–Attended Opioid Overdoses During the COVID-19 Pandemic in Philadelphia



This was a recent cross-sectional study looking at the association between opioid overdoses among racial/ethnic groups. It finds that COVID-19 was associated with increases in opioid overdoses among non-Hispanic Black individuals, but decreases among non-Hispanic White individuals. As the COVID-19 pandemic has magnified the pre-existing racial disparities to accessing SUD treatment, continued work needs to be done to ensure that efforts to address these problems are targeted to those at greatest risk.

[Click for the Article](#)

Reimagining Patient-Centered Care in Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs): Lessons from the Bronx During COVID-19



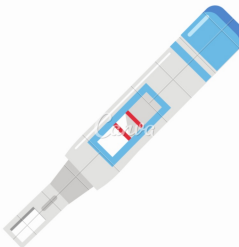
Providing methadone during COVID-19 has been challenging for opioid treatment programs. As OTP providers in the Bronx, NY, this article describes how their clinical practice changed with COVID-19, particularly with the halting of toxicology testing and the increases in unsupervised-take-home doses of MOUD.

Three lessons learned from their approach:

- 1) Advocating for flexible, patient-centered care in OTPs
- 2) Focus clinical decision-making on a range of meaningful patient-centered measures
- 3) Reimagining payments to OTPs to allow programs to provide patient-centered care

[Click for the Article](#)

The Sensitivity and Specificity of Fentanyl Test Strips



This article looked at the ability of 4 brands of fentanyl test strips to detect fentanyl and related analogs in the recreational drug market. It found that all test strips were able to detect fentanyl and 21-24 of the 28 fentanyl analogues, but results are concentration dependent. Interestingly, the strips had low sensitivity for detecting the ultra-potent analog, carfentanil. Given that these strips had high specificity and lower sensitivity, it is important that the samples tested are not overly dilute but that they can be useful tools for harm reduction initiatives. The document also provides information on interpretation.

[Click for the Article](#)

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

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