

Title: Primary Care Implementation of MAT for Substance Use Disorder in Northeast Ohio: Post COVID-19 Pandemic – Qualitative Study

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Location: Department of Family and Community Medicine, G-151. Research will be conducted at NEOMED.

Abstract and Significance: Primary care providers (PCPs, including primary care physicians, physician assistants, and nurse practitioners) are frequently the first line care for many patients with opioid use disorders. The IOM has recommended health professions education and training programs should provide educational opportunities in pain assessment and treatment in primary care. To address this critical training need, NEOMED and Metro Health Services collaborated to offer Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) training designed specifically for PCPs. After five years of implementation, a few providers have made suggestions to either (1) expand the training to offer additional content, or (2) design a follow-up training that will help X waived PCPs achieve an additional 8 hours of training to maintain their credential.

To assist PCPs in the successful incorporation of MAT into all levels of medical education and primary care practice, NEOMED and Metro Health have been offering training sessions since November 2017. The 12-hours of training includes 4 hours of self-directed online MAT training offered by SAMHSA and AAAP, 4 hours in-person MAT and 4 hours supplemental training designed for PCPs. The supplemental training teaches clinicians the significance of opiate use disorders and identification; MAT implementation best practices, and how to converse with patients about MAT; misconceptions about MAT; means to address stigmas associated with MAT; and motivational interviewing. This plan goes beyond the required 8 hours of required MAT for the X waiver and is designed to ensure that PCPs achieve a level of comfort in delivering this type of treatment.

A manuscript describing the initial study was accepted for publication by the *Journal of the American Board of Family Medicine* in November 2022.

This training has been very successful. However, there is opportunity to make it even better. This qualitative study will assess provider training needs and how well our current program is meeting their needs. The information will inform a training expansion and/or a follow-training.

Goals and Objectives: The long-term goal of the project is to create a participant-informed, high-quality substance use disorder treatment training program. To help accomplish this, the summer research fellow will conduct a study to inform project Development. The student will use the GroupWisdom software platform to complete a qualitative Concept Mapping, Pattern Matching exercise, engaging stakeholders from Northeast Ohio. Then, will compile and report the information to NEOMED program directors and consultant trainers responsible for the MAT training expansion and/or follow-up training program. The fellow may also design an

independent, related research project using secondary data under faculty direction that will be disseminated at NEOMED Scholarship Day.

Significance of Anticipated Findings: Results of this study will inform best practices in MAT training for PCPs, and will likely inform either a training expansion or a new, follow-up training to supplement the initial 12-hour training program developed in 2017.

Investigative Methods: The student will help design and implement a qualitative Concept Mapping, Pattern Matching study to look for themes among program stakeholders regarding what content is needed (priorities) for PCPs implementing MAT in practice, versus content presented in trainings (accessibility).

Proposed Method of Data Analysis: This project requires simple descriptive statistics, as well as understanding of the various qualitative methods completed through the GroupWisdom software platform.

Student Role: Under direction, the student will take a leadership role in all parts of the research process including but not limited to: institutional review, informed consent, questionnaire development, survey interviewing, data collection and analyses, and dissemination. The student will meet at least bi-weekly with collaborating NEOMED faculty as needed.

Mentoring Plan:

1. The student will meet with Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw bi-weekly.
2. Educational topics we will cover, in the context of the project:
 - A. Establishing a research question
 - B. Conducting a gap analysis/literature review
 - C. Protection of human subjects
 - D. Data collection/management
 - E. Posters and presentations
3. The student will work with Dr. Gardner-Buckshaw to submit a regional or national presentation of their work.

Resources Available: the student will receive space in the DFCM, with access to computers and a telephone (as required) for research-related activities. The student will also receive research and statistical support as needed. Funds from a SAMHSA grant, or DFCM's student support budget, may be used for student travel to meetings/interviews/presentations, or for poster printing for dissemination.