



Protocol: Team Based Suboxone Startup for Opioid Use Disorder

Roots Community Health Center

Purpose: (1) To assist patients with opioid dependence in the transition to suboxone in a timely and coordinated manner; (2) to augment medical care with navigation and supportive services; (3) to provide select reference materials for physicians leading the suboxone startup process.

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) TEAM

Patient Care Coordinator : (name/phone/email address)

Program Coordinator: (name/phone/email address)

Program Director: (name/phone/email address)

Patient Identification

A patient is a candidate for MAT if they:

- Ask about MAT services like suboxone, methadone, or naltrexone
 - Currently use prescribed or un-prescribed opioids who may be interested in stopping or cutting back OR
 - Take opioid pain medication (like vicodin or oxycodone) and might be interested in stopping or switching to a different pain management method
1. In all above cases, the patient should be given a warm handoff to a member of the MAT team who can provide them with more information.
 - a. If a warm handoff is not possible, the patient should be scheduled an appointment with their preferred MAT physician, and both the physician and the MAT Coordinator are notified by EMR message including the date of the appointment.
 - b. The MAT coordinator assigns the patient to a MAT care coordinator or follows up personally as below.
 2. The MAT care coordinator follows up with the patient, before the appointment if possible, and lets the patient know about the basic options for stopping opioids, including the option for suboxone induction in-clinic.
 - a. Different options for stopping opioids are shared with the patient using the “Opioid Addiction Treatment Brochure” in the “handouts for Patients” section below.



- b. The patient is informed about the possibility to start suboxone (buprenorphine) in the clinic or at home using the “What to Expect” handout in the “handouts for Patients” section below.
- c. If the patient is interested in treatment or would like to discuss with a medical provider and have an appointment, the patient is scheduled a 40-minute appointment with the physician of their choice.
- d. The MAT Care Coordinator offers to attend the physician appointment with the patient, and adds it to their schedule and informs the physician by EMR message if this is desired.
- e. The MAT care coordinator encourages the patient to be connected with a behavioral health counselor (at Roots or their location of choice) and assists them to schedule an appointment.
- f. The MAT care coordinator documents next physician and behavioral health visits as needed, follows up with the patient on appointment reminders and to support as needed is determined between patient, physician, and care coordinator team.
- g. Care coordinator documents contact in MAT patient tracker.

Pre-Startup/Informational Visit

1. Patient presents for the pre-startup/informational visit with the physician
2. MAT care coordinator attends the visit if desired by the patient
3. MAT physician evaluates, educates patient regarding MAT options.
4. If buprenorphine is selected, physician discusses treatment plan and desired follow up schedule with patient.
5. Provider discusses desired follow-up plan with the patient, including any schedule for behavioral or navigation follow ups.

Treatment

Below are resources to assist in development of a treatment plan. These are only guidelines and do not replace clinician judgement / practice style in coordination with patient preference.

Guidelines for physicians

Integrating Buprenorphine Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder in Primary Care (Boston University School of Public Health, Albert Einstein School of Medicine, and UCSF):
<https://ciswh.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/06/Buprenorphine-Implementation-Manual-for-Primary-Care-Settings-.pdf>

National Practice Guideline for the Use of Medications in the Treatment of Addiction Involving Opioid Use (ASAM)



- *Unofficial Pocket Guide (to preview):*
https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/practice-support/guidelines-and-consensus-docs/asam-national-practice-guideline-pocketguide.pdf?sfvrsn=35ee6fc2_0
- *Digital or Printed Pocket Guide Order Link:*
<https://www.guidelinecentral.com/shop/use-of-medications-in-the-treatment-of-addiction-involving-opioid-use-guidelines-pocket-card/>

Unobserved (Home) Induction Clinical Protocol (IT MATTTTRS):

https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/education-docs/unobserved-home-induction-clinic-protocol.pdf?sfvrsn=6224bc2_0

Handouts for patients

Opioid Addiction Treatment Brochure (ASAM):

https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/publications/asam-opioid-patient-piece_-5bopt2-5d_3d.pdf

Medication Assisted Treatment: What to expect (Roots Community Health Center):

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1PGPUTLWWGTfVEUrHFYW03v3d5c0XmGLFysVihDx_gU/edit?usp=sharing

Buprenorphine - Beginning Treatment (NYU School of Medicine):

https://www.oregonpainguidance.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/At_Home_Buprenorphine_Induction_Patient_Pamphlet.pdf

A Patient's Guide to Starting Buprenorphine at Home (IT MATTTTRS):

https://www.asam.org/docs/default-source/education-docs/unobserved-home-induction-patient-guide.pdf?sfvrsn=16224bc2_0

Approved:

Director of Clinical Programs
Roots Community Health Center

Date