The Application of Medication Assisted Treatment (The Clinical/Client Perspectives)

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Methadone and buprenorphine maintenance are considered the gold standard of care by:

- Substance Abuse and Mental Health Administration
- American Society of Addiction Medicine
- World Health Organization

154 youth age 14-21 enter psychosocial treatment for opioid dependence randomized to:

- 14-day suboxone detox
- 8 weeks of maintenance followed by a 4 week taper

173 persons in office-based maintenance Suboxone treatment, followed for six months.

No time limit on their use of Suboxone.


At 18 months, the 76% of patients on continuous Suboxone

less likely to report
• using any substance
• using heroin
• damaging a close relationship
• doing regretful or impulsive things
• hurting family
• experiencing negative personality changes
• failing to do things expected of them
• taking foolish risks
• being unhappy
• having money problems

more likely to report
• AA “home group”
• “sponsor”
• attending 3+ 12-step meetings per week
• to have been employed at baseline
• to be employed at follow-up

1. Redefine the terms of the conversation “Addiction”

How do we change the culture of treatment?

Heroin Addiction

Buprenorphine or Methadone Maintenance
DRUG USE WITHDRAWAL CRAVING
LOSS OF CONTROL
LOSS OF COGNITIVE CONTROL
COMPROMISED VALUES
AMNESIA RE: CONSEQUENCES
RATIONALIZATION OF USE

Cycle of Addiction

DRUG USE

PANICKED DRUG-SEEKING
Lying, cheating, stealing

LOSS OF CONTROL

WITHDRAWAL

DECREASING WELL-BEING
INCREASING STRESS
MENTAL OBSESSION

PHYSICAL RELIEF
GUILT / SHAME
RECALL OF CONSEQUENCES
FEELING OF HELPLESSNESS

A process of change through which individuals improve their health and wellness, live a self-directed life, and strive to reach their full potential.

Redefine the terms of the conversation “Recovery”

Listen to persons in recovery: “Not about me without me”

Plan Your Recovery