COVID & Opioid Use Disorder Management

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April 16, 2020
About Us

• The Great Lakes ATTC, MHTTC, and PTTC are funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).
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Date and year
Funding Statement

This work is supported by the following cooperative agreements from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration:

• Great Lakes ATTC: 1H79TI080207-03
• Great Lakes MHTTC: IH79SM-081733-01
• Great Lakes PTTC: 1H79SP081002-01
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A few housekeeping items:

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About Our Presenter

• Randall Brown
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Risks for people who use opioids in the setting of COVID-19

- If quarantined or isolated, may:
  - Experience dangerous withdrawal
  - Reuse drug consumption supplies
  - Obtain drugs from new sources (which can increase risk of overdose)
  - Be more likely to use alone (no one to respond to overdose)
- May be more likely to live in communal environments (shelters, SROs, jails, residential programs) where they are likely to be exposed
- May have co-morbidities such as COPD, cirrhosis, or HIV which may increase risk of severe disease

https://www.bridgetotreatment.org/covid-1
Keeping patients, providers, and community safe

- Implementing social distancing into all aspects of care!
  - ↓ in-person clinic visits to protect vulnerable patients from unnecessary exposure risk
  - SAMHSA/DEA guidance allows for OBOT initiation without in-person visit and may be by phone
  - Communication w/ OTPs coming direct from DHS (allowing 28-day dispense)
  - Reduce mandatory in-person visits to a minimum.
    - In-person visits still required for methadone initiation at OTPs
  - Use telehealth (text or phone, video if possible) to communicate with patients whenever possible.
- Lab testing
  - Suspend any oral fluid testing
  - For urine testing “a clinical decision balancing the risk of unnecessary exposure for patients and providers with concerns about individuals’ persistent use or diversion”

https://www.bridgetotreatment.org/covid-1
Keeping patients, providers, and community safe

- Cancel groups.
- Help patients identify online meetings or groups if that is something they currently engage in/are interested in.
-Instances patients have to go to the pharmacy:
  - Extend prescriptions to maximum length possible.
  - Move to month-long prescriptions when possible.
  - See if local pharmacies are able to deliver to patients' homes.
    - Many also have curb-side pick-up

https://www.bridgetotreatment.org/covid-19
What about injectable preparations?

- Should continue as long as providers have appropriate PPE
- If PPE runs out, consider prescription of oral buprenorphine products, and/or oral naltrexone
- If patient receiving injections shows signs or symptoms of COVID-19, a provider may use their clinical judgement and forgo a scheduled injection and instead prescribe oral formulation

- At current time, no concern has yet been expressed for shortages of methadone or buprenorphine products

https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm
Other General Preparations

- Procedures for clients with respiratory symptoms (e.g. not waiting in lobby w/ others)
- Inform clients re: importance of contacting facility in advance of any in-person visit if they do have resp symptoms
- Plans for possible staff shortages
- Social distancing on site for staff and clients
- Plans for self-pay clients out of work due to illness or to business closure, particularly those without sick/vacation pay/benefits
Resources

- **SAMHSA**
  - [https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus](https://www.samhsa.gov/coronavirus)


- **WI DHS** [https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm](https://www.dhs.wisconsin.gov/covid-19/index.htm)

- California Bridge COVID 19 Emergency Response: [https://www.bridgetotreatment.org/covid-19](https://www.bridgetotreatment.org/covid-19)