Challenges and Opportunities for the Use of Medications to Treat Chronic Opioid Addiction in the United States

Mark W. Parrino, M.P.A.
August 7, 2014   Phoenix, AZ
Arizona Opioid Treatment Coalition
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
Medication Assisted Treatment Seminar
Medication an effective tool in fighting addiction

By: Samuel P. 2014
AUGUST 27, 2014

Medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction has shown in multiple rigorous clinical trials to increase the likelihood that patients will be

Local methadone clinic helps reduce Rx deaths

By: John M. 2014
FEBRUARY 14, 2014

Methadone Health Services, Willacy County's only methadone clinic, is credited with helping to bring a dramatic reduction in deaths from prescription pain medication overdoses in Willacy in the past three years.

Two years after Willacy ranked third among all counties nationwide in accidental drug overdose deaths per capita, the clinic opened in Edinburg, which is now credited with helping to bring down the number of deaths in the county.
"Addiction Is a Brain Disease"

Issues In Science and Technology, Spring 2001

Alan I. Leshner

“A core concept that has been evolving with scientific advances over the past decade is that drug addiction is a brain disease that develops over time as a result of the initially voluntary behavior of using drugs. The consequence is virtually uncontrollable compulsive drug craving, seeking and use that interferes with, if not destroys, an individual’s functioning in the family and in society. This medical condition demands formal treatment.”

Issues In Science and Technology, Spring 2001
Addiction affects multiple brain circuits, including those involved in reward and motivation, learning and memory, and inhibitory control over behavior. Some individuals are more vulnerable than others to becoming addicted, depending on genetic makeup, age of exposure to drugs, other environmental influences and the interplay of all these factors.

NIDA

Discussions about whether addiction is a medical disorder or a moral problem have a long history. For decades, studies have supported the view that opioid addiction is a medical disorder that can be treated effectively with medications administered under conditions consistent with their pharmacological efficacy, when treatment includes comprehensive services, such as psychosocial counseling, treatment for co-occurring disorders, medical services, vocational rehabilitation services and case management services.

TIP 43
MAT has been shown to:

- Improve survival
- Increase retention in treatment
- Decrease illicit opiate use
- Decrease hepatitis and HIV seroconversion
- Decrease criminal activities
- Increase employment
- Improve birth outcomes with perinatal addicts

Medications

- Medications for Alcohol Dependence: Naltrexone, Disulfiram, Acomprosate, Calcium
- Medications for Opioid Dependence: Methadone, Buprenorphine, Naltrexone

Cost-Effectiveness of Drug Treatment

- Every $1.00 invested in treatment yields us to $7.00 in reduced crime-related costs
- Savings can exceed costs by 12:1 when health care costs are included
- Reduced interpersonal conflicts
- Improved workplace productivity
- Fewer drug-related accidents

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)
Duration of Treatment

- Depends on patient problems/needs
- Less than 90 days is of limited/no effectiveness for residential/outpatient setting
- A minimum of 12 months is required for methadone maintenance
- Longer treatment is often indicated

Source: National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA)

---

Methadone Treatment Today

- In 1995, the Institute of Medicine published findings recommending that federal regulation be modified and supplemented and that the assessment of opiate addiction should be based on clinical practice guidelines and not on regulations.
- Final Rule in 2001 transferred authority for oversight and monitoring of opioid treatment programs from the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and established a regulatory-accreditation system.
- SAMHSA regulations establish basic regulatory standards both for approval of accreditation bodies and opioid treatment programs.
“The detrimental consequences of leaving methadone treatment are dramatically indicated by greatly increased death rates following discharge. Until more is learned about how to improve post-detoxification outcomes for methadone patients, treatment providers and regulatory/funding agencies should be very cautious about imposing disincentives and structural barriers that discourage or impede long-term opiate replacement therapy.”

Mt. Sinai Journal of Medicine

### Opioids

- Heroin
- Buprenorphine (e.g., Suboxone, Subutex)
- Fentanyl (patch, lozenge, solution)
- Hydromorphone (Dilaudid)
- Hydrocodone (e.g., Vicodin)
- Methadone (diskette/wafer, pills, liquid)
- Morphine
- Oxycodone (e.g., OxyContin, Percodan)

### RADARS® SYSTEM/OTPs

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td># of Participating Patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Male Patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Female Patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of White Patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Latino Patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of African American Patients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Patients Employed</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Patients Entering Treatment for First Time</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>% of Patients Entering Treatment/Bodily Pain</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The panel calls attention to the need for opiate-dependent persons under legal supervision to have access to Methadone Maintenance Treatment. The ONDCP and the U.S. Department of Justice should implement this recommendation.

Source: NIH Consensus Statement; Volume 15, Number 6 - 1997
Different Models of Methadone (Buprenorphine in Jails and Prisons)

- New York State: Rikers Island KEEP Program
- Rhode Island: CODAC – Delivering Methadone to Inmates
- Florida: Orange County Jail Methadone/Buprenorphine
- Pennsylvania: Philadelphia Prison System
- Maryland: Baltimore County Jail Recidivism Prevention
- New Mexico: Legislation – Opiate Replacement Therapy Pilot Project
- Washington: At the Inception

Legality of Denying Access to Medication Assisted Treatment In the Criminal Justice System