



Welcome to the VIP Initiative

SEPTEMBER 2018

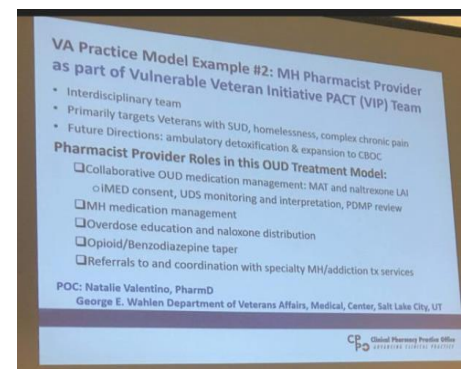
An IDEAS2 –VISN 19 Service and Research Collaborative

SCOUTT CONFERENCE

Report from the Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder Train the Trainer (SCOUTT) Conference

To turn the tide on the opioid epidemic and meet the President’s plan to “provide on-demand, evidence-based addiction treatment to service members Veterans and their families,” medication assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD) must be accessible. A stepped care model provides treatment at the least restrictive level of care. To train providers in this MAT stepped care treatment model, VA’s Substance Use Disorder held the Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder Train the Trainer (SCOUTT) conference in Hartford, CT, August 2018. That national train-the-trainer face-to-face conference taught interdisciplinary teams of clinicians how to implement the models and train other clinicians in their VISNs on Stepped Care models for opioid use disorder thirteen providers from 19 VISNs completed the training. The SCOUTT conference focused on implementing a comprehensive plan to train interdisciplinary teams in Primary Care, General Mental Health, Pain Clinics and SUD Specialty Care clinics to deliver treatment services around Veterans at their preferred point of care. In addition, Dr. Adam Gordon, Co-Director of SCOUTT held two days of DEA X-waiver training for 56 providers.

¹ www.whitehouse.gov/briefings-statements/president-donald-j-trumps-initiative-stop-opioid-abuse-reduce-drug-supply-demand/



UPDATES IN RESEARCH

Kertesz SG, Gordon AJ. A crisis of opioids and the limits of prescription control: United States. *Addiction*. 2018. doi:10.1111/add.14394.

An article co-authored by Adam Gordon, MD, and published online in the journal *Addiction* uses traditional policy analytics scholarship to explain how opioid-related policies have evolved and how they have come up short. Dr. Gordon and coauthors found that 1,458 VHA providers were credentialed to prescribe buprenorphine, but **forty three percent of providers had not prescribed buprenorphine to any VHA patients in the past 180 days**. Of those providers who prescribed buprenorphine to at least one patient, providers still prescribed to fewer patients than their capacity, regardless of their patient panel size (30, 100, or 275 patients), prescribing to 18.5 patients on average. The article concludes that VHA providers are prescribing buprenorphine below their capacity and recommends a multi-pronged approach to increase the number of credentialed providers and address barriers to prescribing to ensure Veterans get effective treatment for OUD.

SEPTEMBER 2018, VIP CHAT

Please announce to your networks our 30 minute, virtual VIP chat on September 26th, 2018 to discuss: **The case of Brutus – Starting XR-Naltrexone**. If you have a question you would like addressed, please submit it to Nodira.Codell@va.gov.

For resources, guidances, past newsletters and presentations, visit our VIP SharePoint site: www.tinyurl.com/vip-initiative