



Welcome to the VIP Initiative

April 2019

An IDEAS –VISN 19 Service and Research Collaborative

EMPLOYEE SPOTLIGHT

Please welcome Matthew Dungan *VIP Research Analyst*



Matthew was born in Ohio but grew up in the suburbs of Detroit. Matthew graduated in 2017 from BYU with a Bachelor of Science in Public Health and statistic minor. He will earn his Master of Public Health from the University of Utah in May 2019. Prior to working with PARCKA, Matthew worked as an Enteric Disease Investigator for the Utah Department of Health and has several years of experience managing clinical research at a rural clinic in New Mexico. Matthew and his wife enjoy camping, rock climbing, rodeos, and reading lots of good books. When he has the time, Matt enjoys going to minor league baseball games and local theater productions. Matthew works as a research analyst for VIP (Vulnerable Initiative) and MAT-VA programs at the VA.

VIP RESEARCH

APEX Study-Veterans Experience with Opioid Replacement Therapy Qualitative Report

The APEX study was recently able to complete interviews with 10 Veterans about their experience with Opioid Replacement Therapy (ORT) in the VA. Veterans were interviewed in person, with interviews ranging between 6 and 55 minutes. The interviews were recorded, transcribed, and then coded using “open coding” to identify the common concepts and concerns shared during the interview process.

The study concluded that Veterans were generally pleased with the ORT they received. Veterans reported that the treatment was convenient, personalized, and that they felt like they were included in the decision-making process. Some small suggestions for improvement were shared but the Veterans overwhelmingly reported that ORT had been a positive life changing experience. Future studies are required to get a better understanding on the patient experience of having ORT transitioned to primary care. Additionally, future studies should focus on understanding how Veterans experience the separation of their specialty and primary care during ORT. Many thanks to Dr. Susan Zickmund and her team for their hard work and dedication on this report!!!

VIP PUBLICATION

[Evaluation of Machine-Learning Algorithms for Predicting Opioid Overdose Risk Among Medicare Beneficiaries With Opioid Prescriptions.](#) Lo-Ciganic WH, Huang JL, Zhang HH, Weiss JC, Wu Y, Kwok CK, Donohue JM, Cochran G, **Gordon AJ**, Malone DC, Kuza CC, Gellad WF. *JAMA Netw Open.* 2019 Mar 1;2(3):e190968. doi: 0.1001/jamanetworkopen.2019.0968. PMID:30901048

[The Role of Primary Care in Improving Access to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Rural Medicaid Enrollees with Opioid Use Disorder.](#) Cole ES, DiDomenico E, Cochran G, **Gordon AJ**, Gellad WF, Pringle J, Warwick J, Chang CH, Kim JY, Kmiec J, Kelley D, Donohue JM. *J Gen Intern Med.* 2019 Mar 18. doi: 10.1007/s11606-019-04943-6. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 30887440

[Predictors of timely opioid agonist treatment initiation among veterans with and without HIV.](#)

Wyse JJ, Robbins JL, McGinnis KA, Edelman EJ, **Gordon AJ**, Manhapra A, Fiellin DA, Moore BA, Korthuis PT, Gaither JR, Gordon K, Skanderson M, Barry DT, Crystal S, Justice A, Kraemer KL. *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2019 Mar 9;198:70-75. doi: 10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2019.01.038. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 30878769

NEXT VIP CHAT

Please announce to your networks our 30 minute, virtual VIP chat on Wednesday, May 1, 2019, noon-2 PM MST and PM Wednesday, May 15, 2019, noon-2 PM MST “Scholarly Presentations of the Interprofessional Advanced Fellowship in Addiction Treatment Fellows. 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