



ASAM

American Society *of*
Addiction Medicine

Caring for Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic

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Financial Disclosures

Name	Company Name(s)	Role(s)
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Learning Objectives

At the end of this webinar, you will be able to:

- Discuss the types of guidance and resources that ASAM has available to help its members
- Describe steps treatment providers and programs can take to protect patients and staff from coronavirus infection while maintaining provision of services
- Explain the national and state challenges providers are dealing with during the COVID-19 emergency
- Recognize patient-centered best practices for maintaining addiction treatment during the COVID-19 emergency
- Identify ASAM's recommended guidelines for addiction medicine practices

AGENDA

- 01 - Welcome and Overview of ASAM's COVID-19 Response
- 02 - COVID-19 Task Force Progress, Resources and Planned Deliverables
- 03 - Supporting ASAM Chapters and Members with State Issues
- 04 - Q&A

ASAM is working to rapidly develop consolidated resources to support addiction treatment providers in addressing the COVID-19 crisis:

Guidance from
Federal agencies
and national
stakeholder groups

CPDC Task Force
Guidance

Coordinating with
members through state
chapters to provide
support in addressing
state level issues

<https://www.asam.org/Quality-Science/covid-19-coronavirus>



ASAM American Society of
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ADVOCACY

EDUCATION

MEMBERSHIP

QUALITY & SCIENCE

CME EVENTS

HOME / QUALITY & SCIENCE / COVID-19 CORONAVIRUS



COVID-19 - RESOURCES



As the leader in developing clinical guidelines and standards in addiction medicine, we take our responsibility very seriously. We realize that many providers and programs are trying to mitigate circumstances related to COVID-19. We have convened the ASAM Caring for Patients During the COVID-19 (CPDC) Task Force. The Task Force includes a national panel of experts that are

COVID-19 Coronavirus

Support Group

Access to Telehealth

Infection Mitigation in
Outpatient Settings

Adjusting Drug Testing
Protocols

National and State
Guidance

Taskforce

Content Disclaimer

ASAM's COVID-19 Task Force



- 01 - Provide guidance from national addiction experts related to addressing the COVID-19 pandemic
- 02 - Provide a consolidated site for information related to COVID-19
 - Rapidly evolving federal and state guidance
 - Diverse sources of guidance
 - Expert guidance on significant issues specific to the addiction field
- 03 - Provide liaison with Members via Chapters Council

CPDC Task Force Groups

CPDC Task Force Groups

Group 1

Infection Mitigation: Outpatient

- David Goodman, MD
- Paul Trowbridge, MD
- Mishka Terplan, MD, MPH, FACOG, DFASAM

Group 2

Infection Mitigation Strategies: Residential and Sober Living

- Kinna Thakarar, MD, DO, MPH, FASAM
- Margaret Jarvis , MD, DFASAM
- Jessie Schaumburg, MD



CPDC Task Force Groups

Group 3

Supporting Access to Methadone/Buprenorphine in OTPs

- Shawn Ryan, MD, MBA, FASAM
- Sarah Kawasaki, MD, FASAM

Group 4

Supporting Access to Buprenorphine in Office-Based Settings

- Chinazo Cunningham, MD, MS, FASAM
- Cara Poland, MD, MEd, DFASAM



CPDC Task Force Groups

Group 5

Supporting Access to Other Addiction Medications

- Nishant Shah, MD
- Lewis Nelson, MD, FASAM

Group 6

Promoting Support Group Attendance

- Chris Bundy, MD, MPH, FASAM
- Scott Hambleton, MD, DFASAM
- Alexis Polles, MD
- Brad Hall, MD, DABAM, DFASAM



CPDC Task Force Groups

Content Reviewers

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CPDC Task Force

Resources

Task Force Published Guidance and Resources Overview

- **Telehealth Access for Addiction Treatment**
 - Regulatory Overview
 - General Practice Considerations
- **Support Group Participation**
 - A guide for addiction treatment providers and programs to encourage patient participation in virtual support groups during the COVID-19 pandemic.



Task Force Published Guidance and Resources Overview Cont'd

- **Infection Mitigation: Outpatient Settings**

Guidance to outpatient addiction treatment providers and programs when developing infection control procedures to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Adjusting Drug Testing Protocols**

Guidance on amending drug testing protocols during the COVID-19 Crisis

- **National and State Guidance**

This webpage contains news, guidance and resources from around the country regarding addiction treatment in the wake of COVID-19.



Guidance Coming Soon



Access to Buprenorphine

Guidance on ensuring patient access to Buprenorphine while following recommended infection mitigation procedures due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Access to Methadone

Guidance on ensuring patient access to Methadone while following recommended infection mitigation procedures due to the COVID-19 Pandemic.



Infection Mitigation in Residential Settings

Guidance to residential addiction treatment providers and programs when developing infection control procedures to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

Additional Resources Coming Soon



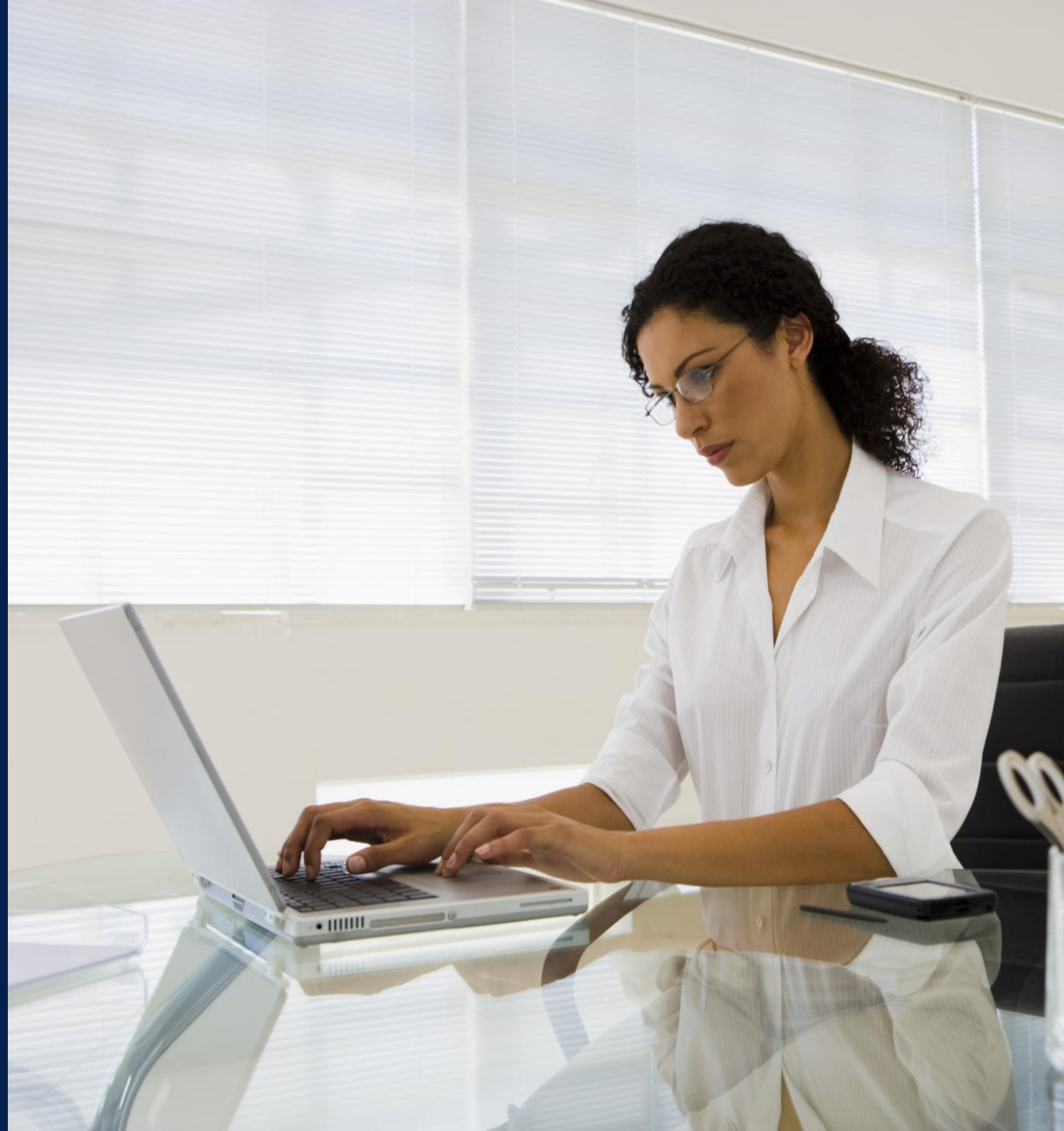
State and Community Specific Guidance and Resources

Providers need assistance in:

- determining if the recommended national practice changes will be supported /allowed in their states
- ensuring emergency Covid-19 policy responses in their states, communities, and treatment systems supports quality addiction services

Telehealth Access for Addiction Treatment

- **Telehealth is a key tool during this pandemic to:**
 - Promote social distancing
 - Monitor patients without person-to-person contact



Telehealth Access for Addiction Treatment

Federal Policy Changes to Date

- Waiver of regulatory requirements related to HIPPA compliant telehealth platforms (OCR)
- Expansion of Medicare Coverage for Providing Services through Telehealth (CMS)
- Flexibility for Take Home Medication for OTPs (SAMHSA)
- Flexibility for Prescribing Controlled Substances via Telehealth (SAMHSA/DEA)
- Exception to Separate Registration Requirements Across State Lines (DEA)
- Compliance with Addiction Treatment Confidentiality Regulations – 42 CFR Part 2 (SAMHSA)



Telehealth Access for Addiction Treatment

Key Points

- **Variable and Evolving Changes to State Policies and Regulations**
 - Medicaid
 - Licensing
- **General Guidance on What to Consider When Implementing Telehealth**
 - Technology considerations
 - Communicating with patients
 - Documentation
 - Workflow
- **Links to valuable resources from other organizations (AMA, APA, National Council) that are updated as new or revised policies/regulations are released**

Support and Group Participation

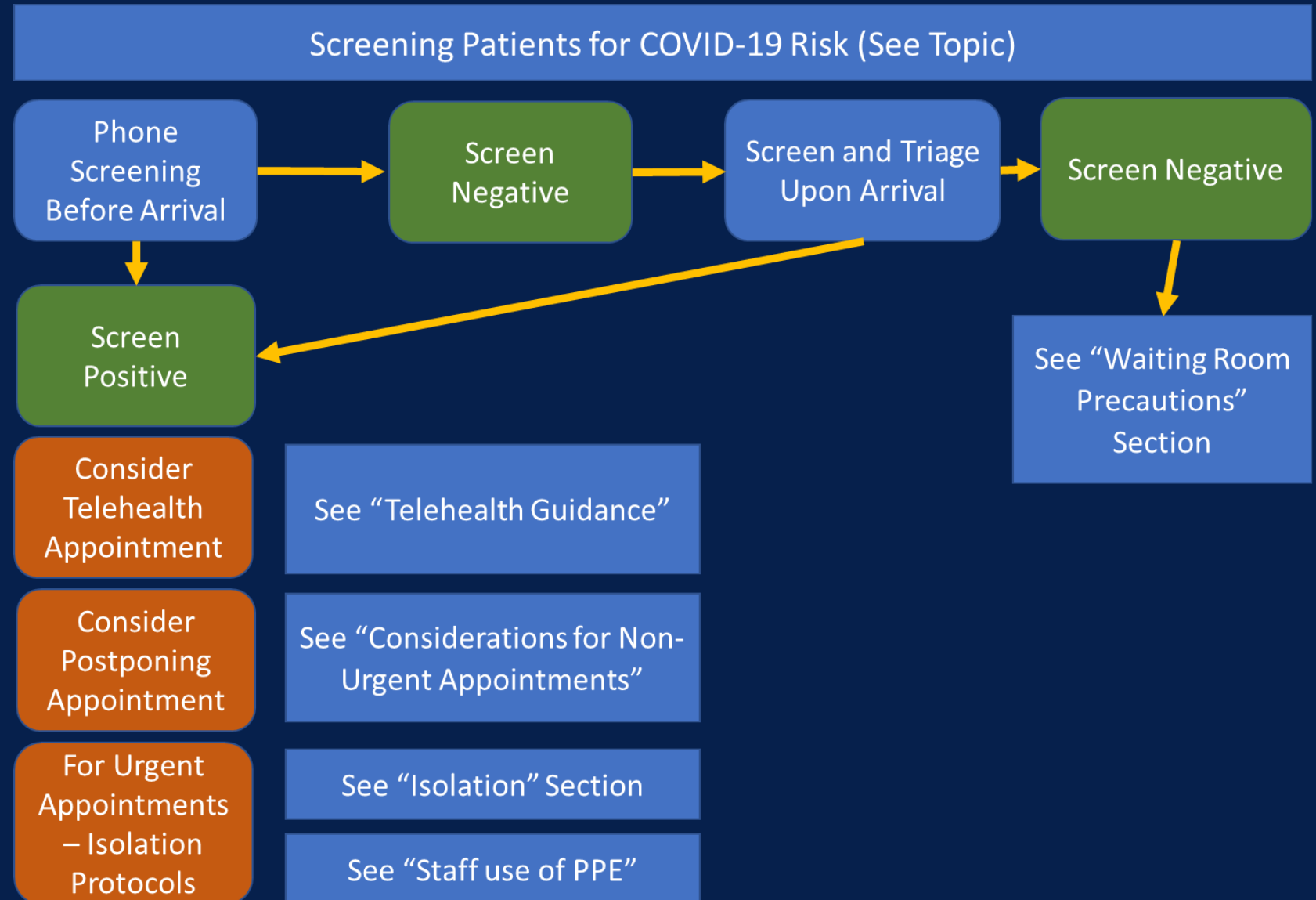
Key Points

- **Importance of maintaining connections and support**
- **Online Support Groups**
 - Should be offered to patients
 - Variety of formats: discussion groups, chat and live meetings via teleconferencing technology
 - Considerations for etiquette for online-support groups
 - Guidance for maintaining confidentiality and anonymity
- **Considerations for small group meetings with proper social distancing**

Infection Mitigation: Outpatient Settings

Key Topics

- Sample workflow
- Screening for COVID-19 Risk
 - Before arrival
 - At arrival
- Managing Patients who Screen Positive



Infection Mitigation: Outpatient Settings



Waiting Room
Precautions

Protecting and
Monitoring Staff

- Screening staff for symptoms of COVID-19
- Use of PPE

Considerations
for New Intake

Considerations
for Non-Urgent
Appointments

Adjusting Drug Testing Protocols

- Consider pausing urine drug testing
- Explore options for drug testing at a distance
 - Collecting specimens for drug testing outside the treatment facility
 - Drug testing from home
 - Also mentions considering oral fluid–based testing and related precautions



National and State Resources

National and State Resources

Tracking National Developments

ASAM Advocacy Team

- is consolidating national and state resources on our website
- will continue to track changes in guidance from federal agencies and national stakeholders
- will update National and State Guidance Page as new information comes out
- continues to advocate for federal actions to address this crisis based on feedback from members





National and State Resources

Steps ASAM is taking to support members and providers on the ground:

- ASAM Chapter leaders are working with regional directors to understand the needs on the ground and develop appropriate guidelines and recommendations.
- ASAM is working on a process for rapid communication with state chapters and regions to help address concerns related to state regulations and policies.

National and State Resources

Current State Level Issues

- Ensuring addiction related services are deemed essential in any “stay at home” orders
- Ensuring patients in diverse settings continue to provide appropriate care related to addiction
 - Naloxone distribution and medication initiation following overdose
 - Initiation of methadone
- Awareness of potential impact of closing all liquor stores
- Places to quarantine patients from residential treatment facilities who test positive for COVID-19

National and State Resources

Current Issues

- We want to hear from the field through ASAM's State Chapters.
- If you have questions or concerns related to the guidance or if you are experiencing other issues at the state level that ASAM can assist with, please email COVID@asam.org



QUESTIONS





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