Caring for Patients During the COVID-19 Pandemic
Faculty

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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
Welcome and Overview of ASAM’s COVID-19 Response

COVID-19 Task Force Progress, Resources and Planned Deliverables

Supporting ASAM Chapters and Members with State Issues

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

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 working to provide critical information to addiction medicine providers and programs to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on patients.
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
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
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

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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.
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

Screening Patients for COVID-19 Risk (See Topic)

- Phone Screening Before Arrival
  - Screen Positive
    - Consider Telehealth Appointment
    - Consider Postponing Appointment
    - For Urgent Appointments – Isolation Protocols
  - Screen Negative
  - Screen and Triage Upon Arrival
    - Screen Negative
    - See “Waiting Room Precautions” Section
    - See “Telehealth Guidance”
    - See “Considerations for Non-Urgent Appointments”
    - See “Isolation” Section
    - See “Staff use of PPE”
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
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