

Addiction Treatment Starts Here



**MAT and COVID-19
Webinar Series
April 15, 2020**

Webinar Reminders

1. Everyone is muted.

 *6 to unmute

 *6 to re-mute

2. Use the chat box for questions and to share what you're working on.

3. **This webinar is being recorded.** The slides and webinar recording will be emailed and posted to the ATSH program page.

Agenda

- Introductions
- Ask the Expert: Complex Cases and Remote Prescribing
- Virtual Groups
- Q&A
- Closing

ATSH COVID-19 Series

Joe Sepulveda, MD, ABPN, ABPM, FAPA, FASAM

Family Health Centers of San Diego

- Adult Psychiatrist
- Assistant Medical Director

Team Perspectives on Virtual Visits:

- Chapa De Indian Health
- Fresno New Connections
- KCS Health Center

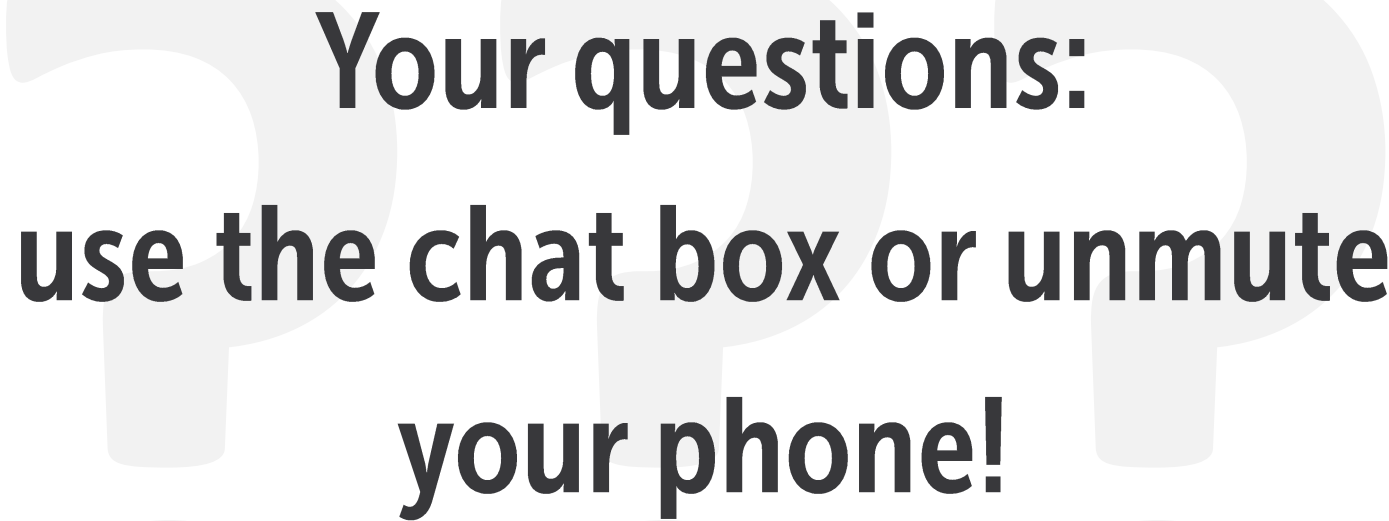


Ask the Expert!



Questions

- **Co-occurring diagnoses:** What are the considerations in prescribing for patients with co-occurring diagnoses or conditions, including:
 - SUD: Alcohol use, stimulant use, or patients who also use benzos?
 - Mental health diagnoses
 - Hepatitis C
- **Pain orphans:** How should we navigate OUD treatment options, including prescribing buprenorphine, for patients who are suddenly cut off from prescription opioids because that prescriber will no longer see them
- **Refills for non-adherent patients:** How can we manage telephone refills for patients with a history of being not consistently adherent (e.g., missed appts, early refill requests, etc.)? When should we bring that patient into the clinic, during COVID-19?
- **Patient history:** How should we handle telephone prescribing for brand new patients calls if that patient doesn't have a clearly confirmable history (e.g., nothing in CURES and no other collateral available)? We can't confirm the facts that we normally want to confirm.



**Your questions:
use the chat box or unmute
your phone!**

Virtual Group Visits



Virtual Group Visits



Chapa De

Fresno New Connections

KCS

Chapa De Indian Health



Kylie Timmerman, BSN, RN, PHN, Nurse Case Manager for SUD

- ATSH:PC participant
- Rural clinic, located ~60 miles NE of Sacramento
- Two sites (Auburn, Grass Valley), both of which offer MAT
- 23,000 total patients: 8 x-waivered prescribers; 53 MAT patients (all buprenorphine)

- What technology platform are you using and how well does it work?
- What staff are involved the visits (e.g., staff roles and tasks to plan and conduct the group visits)?
- Describe the logistics of your outreach process (e.g., call or text patients, provide connection info, etc.)
- What technology challenges do patients encounter? How have you addressed them?
- How has the structure of your groups changed now that you do them virtually (e.g., facilitating, inviting patients to share their story, etc.)
- What recommendations do you have for clinics that want to start virtual groups?

Fresno New Connections



Cheryl Whittle, PhD, LCSW, Clinical Supervisor

- Outpatient drug and alcohol treatment program (ATSH:BH participant)
 - Patients receive medications at a local pain management group (LAGS)
 - 300 total patients: 2 x-waivered prescribers; 42 MAT patients (41 naltrexone, 1 buprenorphine)
- What technology platform are you using and how well does it work?
 - **What staff** are involved the visits (e.g., staff roles and tasks to plan and conduct the group visits)?
 - **Describe the logistics** of your outreach process (e.g., call or text patients, provide connection info, etc.)
 - **What technology challenges** do patients encounter? How have you addressed them?
 - **How has the structure of your groups** changed now that you do them virtually (e.g., facilitating, inviting patients to share their story, etc.)
 - **What recommendations do you have** for clinics that want to start virtual groups?

Grace Xu, Managing Director

- KCS FQHC, located in Buena Park (Orange County)
 - Participant in both cohorts of ATSH - primary care and behavioral health
 - 3,200 total patients: 3 x-waivered prescribers; 41 patients on MAT (25 buprenorphine, 16 naltrexone)
- **What technology platform** are you using and how well does it work?
 - **What staff** are involved the visits (e.g., staff roles and tasks to plan and conduct the group visits)?
 - **Describe the logistics** of your outreach process (e.g., call or text patients, provide connection info, etc.)
 - **What technology challenges** do patients encounter? How have you addressed them?
 - **How has the structure of your groups** changed now that you do them virtually (e.g., facilitating, inviting patients to share their story, etc.)
 - **What recommendations do you have** for clinics that want to start virtual groups?

Questions?



Additional Questions

- Email: Briana Harris-Mills
briana@careinnovations.org
- Briana will triage your questions and share with the appropriate ATSH coach or team member



Appendix

Physician Support Line

Free Confidential Peer Support Line by
Volunteer Psychiatrists for US Physician Colleagues
during the COVID19 Pandemic

1-888-409-0141

NOW LIVE

**7 days a week
8am - 12am EST**

www.physiciansupportline.com

Federal Guidance and Resources

- [DEA guidance](#) on allowing prescriptions of buprenorphine to new and existing patients with OUD via telephone.
- SAMHSA [FAQ](#) on prescribing buprenorphine (see question 4, which indicates that new patients can be prescribed buprenorphine via telephone outside an OTP). FAQ released on March 19, 2020.
- SAMSHA [guidance on the application of 42 CFR Part 2](#) in a public health emergency (released March 19, 2020).
- SAMSHA [MAT resource page](#) including various guidance documents for OTPs. Also includes link to a [Virtual Recovery Resource](#) list.
- HHS [Health Information Privacy Page](#), including a [notice](#) allowing for enforcement discretion for remote communications (e.g., allowing use of non-HIPAA compliant devices for telehealth).
- DEA COVID-19 [Information Page](#)
- Changes to [EMTALA regulations](#), in light of the public health emergency (updated March 15, 2020).
- In a March 17, 2020 [news release](#), CMS indicates that Medicare can pay for office, hospital and other visits furnished via telehealth starting March 6, 2020 and for the duration of the COVID-19 public health emergency.

California Guidance and Resources

- DHCS COVID-19 Response [landing page](#)
- DHCS [guidance around Medi-Cal Payment for Telehealth and Virtual/Telephonic Communications](#). Released March 24, 2020.
- DHCS [Guidance to Medi-Cal Managed Care Plans](#) requiring plans to reimburse providers at the same rate regardless of whether a service is provided in person, via telehealth, or via telephone. Released March 18, 2020.
- CA Office of Health Information Integrity (CalOHII) [Disaster Response and Information Sharing during Emergencies](#), including specific references to SUD and MAT data sharing (March 18, 2020).
- DHCS [guidance for behavioral health programs](#) on providing behavioral health services via telephone and telehealth, adapting oversight requirements, and access to prescription medications. Released March 14, 2020.
- DHCS [FAQ on Behavioral Health Services](#) in light of COVID-19, updated on March 13, 2020.
- California's "[One-Stop Coronavirus Website](#)" (not MAT specific)

California Bridge Program Materials

- [Slides](#) and [recording](#) from 60-minute webinar which reviews key steps for keeping patients and providers safe while providing MAT. Webinar recorded on March 18, 2020.
- Link to [legal analysis of four hypothetical scenarios](#) for prescribing buprenorphine during COVID-19, prepared for the Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts (March 19, 2020).
- CA Bridge example [MAT Patient Flyer](#) for COVID
- CA Bridge [Home Start Guide](#), [Buprenorphine After Overdose](#)
- CA Bridge [COVID-19 information page](#) and resources

Harm Reduction + Telehealth

- Harm Reduction
 - Yale Program in Addiction Medicine: [Guidance for People Who Use Substances on COVID-19](#), focusing on harm reduction strategies.
 - Harm Reduction Coalition's COVID-19 [Virtual Office Hours](#) (March 18, 2020).
 - Harm Reduction Coalition: [Syringe Services and Harm Reduction During COVID-19](#) (updated March 11, 2020) and [Safer Drug Use During the COVID-19 Outbreak](#) (updated March 11, 2020).
- Telehealth
 - The [California Telehealth Resource Center](#) provides [sample forms and guidelines](#) for implementing a telehealth program. It also recently updated its [Telehealth Reimbursement Guide](#), which includes telehealth reimbursement policies for Medicare, Medi-Cal Fee-For-Service, and Managed Care.

Other COVID-19 Webinars

- Foundation for Opioid Response Efforts COVID-19 Series [slides and recording](#)
- California Primary Care Association: Weekly COVID-19 Webinars – [Link to registration and recording/slides](#).
- Health Management Associates (HMA): COVID-19 Resource Library [INFO AND RECORDINGS](#)
- California Medical Association (CMA): COVID-19 webinar series [SLIDES AND RECORDINGS](#)