Treating Addiction in Primary Care and Behavioral Health Settings During COVID-19

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Webinar Reminders

1. Everyone is muted.

   🔊 *7 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.

Introductions and Disclaimers

- Not legal advice

- Regulatory landscape is changing

- Local municipalities and organizations may have their own rules

Outline

- Brief review of public health emergency rules and regulatory guidance

- West County's telehealth approach

- Reducing risks by modifying medication management of opioid use disorder

- Harm reduction

- Team victories and challenges
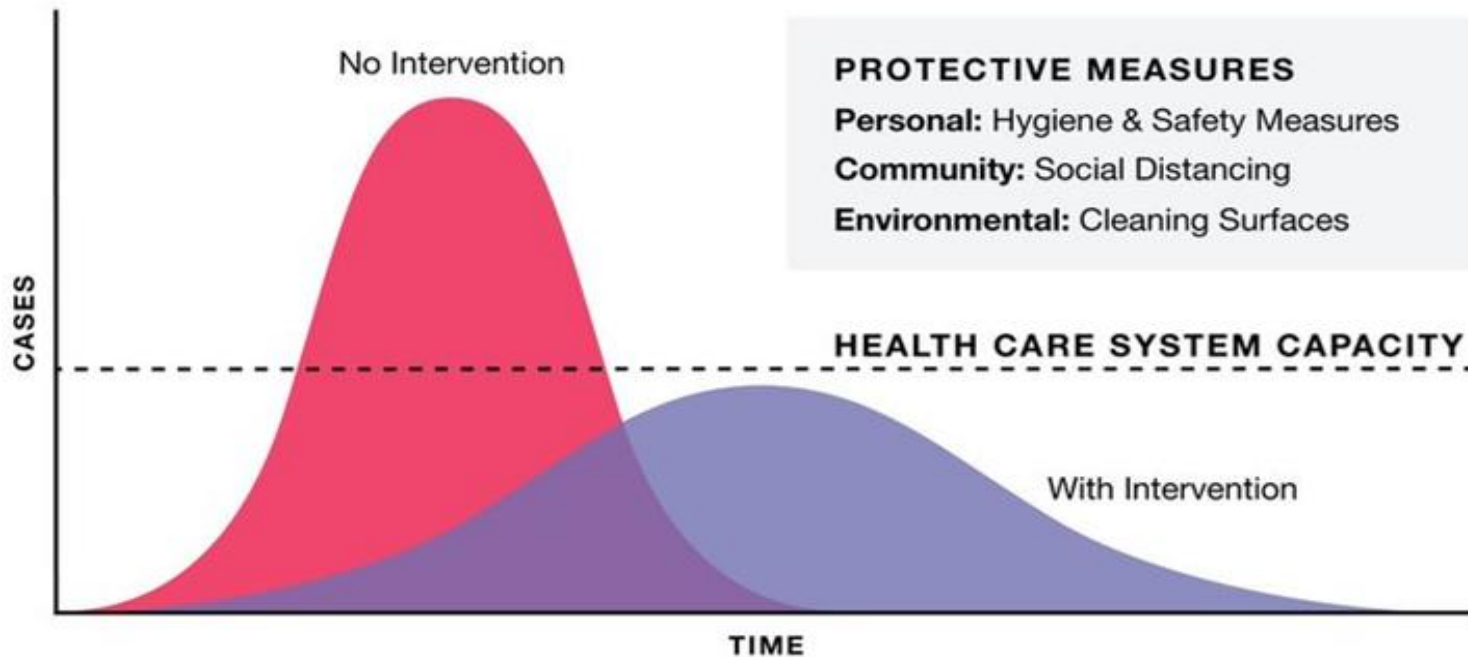
- Questions and answers

Principles

- Limiting spread of COVID-19

    - Patients, Clinicians, Staff, and Providers

- Treating the conditions that make patients vulnerable to acquiring COVID-19

Protective Measures

Flatten the Curve

Collective action can limit the rise of new COVID-19 infections and help hospitals manage increased demand for care.

No Intervention

PROTECTIVE MEASURES
Personal: Hygiene & Safety Measures
Community: Social Distancing
Environmental: Cleaning Surfaces

CASES

HEALTH CARE SYSTEM CAPACITY

With Intervention

TIME

UCSF

Source: CDC

General Risk Reduction

- General COVID-19 Policies for Healthcare Settings

- Providing Care Remotely

- Hygiene, PPE, Cleaning Surfaces

Federal Policy Guidance

- HHS Health Information Privacy (HIPAA)

- SAMHSA

  - 42 CFR Part 2

  - DATA-2000 Specific Guidance

- DEA's Telehealth Update

State Policy Guidance

- Medi-Cal Billing Guidance for remotely managed visits

- CA Office of Health Information Integrity re: MAT data sharing

- Behavioral Health Guidance

- CA Telehealth resource center

West County Health Centers

ATSH:PC Wave 1 Participant

- Gravenstein Community Health Center Site

- Telehealth expansion

West County Health Centers
Caring for our Communities

Diane Rooney

Behavioral Health Case Manager

MAT Management During COVID-19

- Convert in-person visits to remote visits whenever possible

- Start and continue patients on MAT remotely
  - Pharmacy home delivery options

- Extended prescriptions for MAT
  - Consider XR buprenorphine subcutaneous injections in selected patients

- Lab testing considerations
  - Lab results are not categorically required to initiate or continue MAT

- CURES is available for collateral

Harm Reduction

- Co-prescribe and distribute naloxone

- Safe consumption supplies and hygiene in drug consumption

- Offer medications to patients who may continue to use

  - Opioid, alcohol, and nicotine withdrawal management medications

Team Victories and Challenges

- What are you doing in your clinics?

    - Telehealth

    - Other innovations

- Use the chat box to share what's working in your clinic!

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

Federal Guidance and Resources

- 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 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 [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.