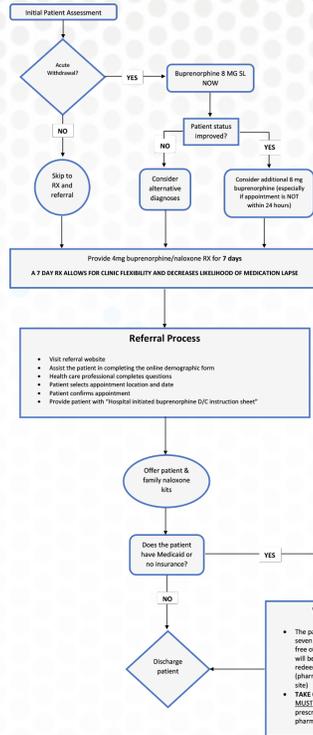


Emergency Department Medication Assisted Treatment & Referral Network

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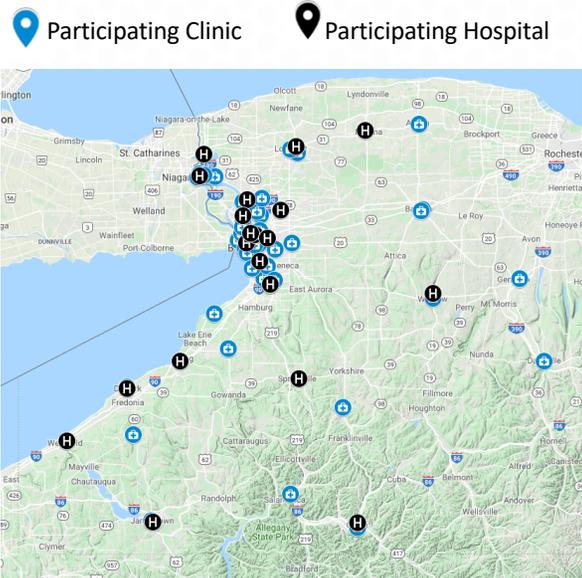
Objectives: Emergency Departments (EDs) serve as a safety net for the unmet medical and social needs of the community. The current opiate crisis is no exception. Emergency medicine providers often have limited options when caring for patients presenting to the ED after an overdose, in acute withdrawal or suffering from a medical condition which is affected by their opiate use. We sought to establish an ED-Initiated Buprenorphine Network (EDIBN) to allow emergency providers to initiate medication assisted treatment (MAT) in EDs throughout Western New York and rapidly link patients to continuing community-based care.



Results:

- 20 emergency departments participate
- >200 emergency medicine providers trained to prescribe MAT
- In the ED patients receive (via electronic tablet process):
 - Clinical referral
 - If uninsured, a voucher for 7 days of buprenorphine
 - Optional referral for peer services
- 49 participating clinics
- > 200 appointment slots per week
- Further expansion anticipated

Conclusion: We have created a network of emergency departments and MAT clinics, all linked by an electronic referral platform, and all agreeing to a single mission, vision and values statement. The network's standardized, streamlined approach, and ease of use for emergency providers makes it a best practice model for other regions wishing to establish their own EDIBN. Hospitals across NYS are in various stages of adopting similar practices.



Methods: This network was established as a joint venture between an academic Department of Emergency Medicine and a local county health department with grant support from a local community foundation. In order to prescribe buprenorphine as part of MAT, physicians and advanced practice providers (APPs) must undergo specialized training which allows them to obtain a waiver, or X-number, from the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). Qualified emergency providers are then able to initiate buprenorphine MAT from the ED when appropriate based on an evidence-based protocol.

