



# MATTERS

Medication Assisted Treatment & Emergency Referrals

## Mission

Regional hospital systems, through the Medication Assisted Treatment and Emergency Referrals (MATTERS) network are partnering with community-based substance use treatment programs to reduce inappropriate controlled substance prescribing, increase access to medication assisted treatment (MAT), and provide rapid access to substance use treatment programs.

## Vision

- To aid our shared patients in initiating and continuing successful opioid and overall substance use disorder treatment.
- To reduce morbidity and mortality associated with opiate and substance use disorder.
- To provide a best practice model for Hospital and Emergency Department Initiated Buprenorphine Programs that others can emulate.
- To provide the same high level of care to patients suffering from opiate use disorder that we would for any other emergency medical condition.

## Values

Hospital partners will follow these values:

- We will prescribe buprenorphine for patients when appropriate based on our guidelines.
- We will not automatically disqualify patients from receiving buprenorphine if they engage in polysubstance abuse (especially benzodiazepines and/or alcohol).
- We will refer patients to the most appropriate follow up possible based on their unique needs.
- We will inform patients of the referral program's expectations.
- We will continuously evaluate our program and share our lessons learned with others.

Community-based substance abuse treatment programs that embody these values:

- They will accept and work with patients regardless of insurance status.
- They will accept patients who have not been prescribed buprenorphine or MAT in the past.
- They will offer timely appointments to patients referred from the hospital and emergency department.
- They will accept referred patients even if previously discharged from a treatment program.
- They will not automatically disqualify patients from receiving medication assisted treatment if they engage in polysubstance abuse (especially benzodiazepines and/or alcohol).
- They will not place undue financial burden on the patient.
- They will provide care that is culturally appropriate for the target population of patients with substance use disorder.
- They will provide feedback referring providers regarding the disposition of referred patients to improve processes.