



MATTERS

Medication for Addiction Treatment & Electronic Referrals

Mission

Regional hospital systems, correctional facilities, & first responders, through the Medication for Addiction Treatment and Electronic 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 treatment.

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 substance use disorder that we would for any other emergency medical condition.

Values

Referral partners will follow these values:

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

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

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