



MATTERS

Medication for Addiction Treatment & Electronic Referrals

Mission

Hospitals, primary care offices, correctional facilities, first responders & telemedicine services, through the Medication for Addiction Treatment and Electronic Referrals (MATTERS) Network, are linking patients with community-based substance use and mental health treatment organizations to optimize controlled substance prescribing, increase access to medication for addiction treatment (MAT), and provide rapid access to treatment services.

Vision

- To aid our shared patients in initiating and continuing effective substance use disorder and mental health treatment.
- To reduce morbidity and mortality associated with substance use disorders and mental health conditions.
- To provide a best-practice model for Hospital and Emergency Department Initiated Buprenorphine Programs and linkage to ongoing treatment that others can adopt.
- To provide the same high level of care to patients suffering from substance use disorder and mental health illness that we would for any other medical condition.
- To utilize telehealth technology to provide access to care for those who can't visit a physical treatment location.

Values

Referral partners will follow these values:

- Will educate their providers on screening and diagnosing substance use disorder and mental health illness.
- 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 treatment possible based on their unique needs.
- Will inform patients of the referral program's expectations.
- Will continuously evaluate this program and share 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 provide care that is culturally appropriate for the target population of patients with substance use disorder.
- Will provide feedback to referring providers regarding the disposition of referred patients to improve processes.
- Will provide feedback on patient treatment retention.
- Will accept referred patients previously discharged from a treatment program.
- Will accept patients who have not been prescribed buprenorphine or other forms of MAT in the past.
- Will offer timely appointments to patients referred from all referral environments.
- Will not automatically disqualify patients from receiving medication assisted treatment if they engage in polysubstance use.
- Will not place undue financial burden on the patient.