



MATTERS[®]

Medication for Addiction Treatment & Electronic Referrals

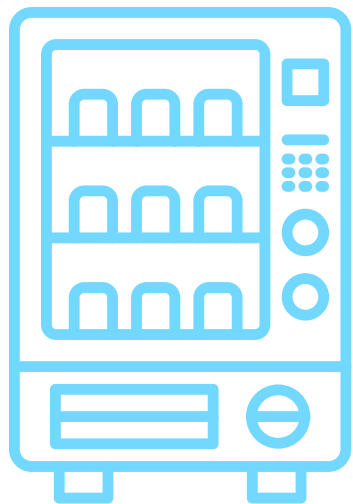
History

In 2016, Dr. Joshua Lynch created MATTERS to address inadequacies in how the health care system treated patients with opioid use disorder (OUD). In conjunction with the University at Buffalo and UBMD Emergency Medicine, guidelines were developed to train providers on responsible prescribing and Medication for Addiction Treatment. These guidelines were endorsed by major health care systems and urgent care organizations across Western New York, resulting in a reduction of over 50% in opioid prescribing by 2018.

Starting with one hospital and three clinics in Western New York, MATTERS has grown into the extensive network it is today with the support of the New York State Department of Health and the Office of Addiction Services and Supports. MATTERS has expanded to include telemedicine, medication and transportation vouchers, referral follow-up support, and harm reduction supplies, training, and education. In addition, MATTERS is expanding into Pennsylvania and New Jersey in late 2024.

Vending Machines

Since September 2023, MATTERS has deployed 14 harm reduction vending machines across New York State, offering 24/7 access to free supplies such as Narcan, and fentanyl and xylazine test strips. MATTERS aims to triple that number across the state in 2025.



Test Strips

In August 2022, MATTERS began distributing free drug test strips as part of its overdose prevention and harm reduction efforts. These test strips, which include fentanyl and xylazine, can be ordered by individuals and organizations through the MATTERS website and mobile app. From the program's launch through the end of 2024, MATTERS expects to distribute 20 million strips.

Partners



330+

Referral Sites



250+

Treatment Organizations



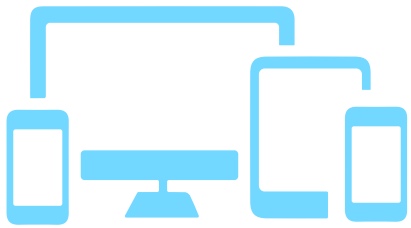
1000+

Pharmacies

Breaking Down Barriers

Referral Platform and Mobile App

In five minutes or less, patients can be linked to be seen by a provider (either in person or virtually) in as little as 24 hours. Through the mobile app, patients have access to 24/7 resources right in the palm of their hand.



Telemedicine

MATTERS partners with virtual providers to offer stigma-free, rapid evaluations from the comfort of their own home. By focusing on underserved and rural communities, MATTERS provides easy and effective resources to those who need them most.

Outreach and Follow-Up Support

MATTERS' regional coordinator team targets community-specific barriers to treatment. By offering medication and transportation vouchers as well as post-referral engagement, the program effectively links patients to treatment. In addition, its regional team focuses on increasing access to necessary resources by continually expanding the network.



Feedback Driven Approach



Since its inception, MATTERS has continually evolved based on feedback from patients and the community by prioritizing patient choice in treatment location, introducing medication and transportation vouchers, and implementing 24-hour post-referral engagement.

 765-MATTERS (628-8377)

 www.mattersnetwork.org



Download the
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