

Impact of Incorporating Medications for Addiction Treatment (MAT) Waiver Training during Undergraduate Medical Clerkship Curriculum



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BACKGROUND

- The opioid epidemic in the US is a major concern in healthcare.
- In 2018, 21.2 million people aged 12 or older needed treatment for a substance use disorder (SUD), yet only 18% actually received treatment.¹
- <20% of SUD patients who need treatment actually receive it.



- In 2017, fewer than 10% of primary care providers in the US could prescribe buprenorphine and 48% of these providers were not prescribing to their maximum capacity.^{4,5}
- It has been estimated that roughly half of individuals with OUD would be treated if all MAT waivered providers prescribed to their permitted capacity.⁵
- Various medical schools also now deliver education on MAT, including Rutgers New Jersey Medical School (NJMS).
 Following waiver training, NJMS reported that students
 - 1) Had an increase in confidence and knowledge

2) Plan to apply for a waiver once licensed

3) Would be more likely to prescribe because of training.⁴

 However, there is a paucity of data on behavioral outcomes of MAT educational interventions in medical school.

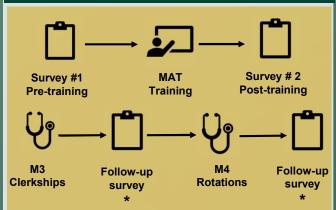
MAT at WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY

- Students and faculty collaborated to add Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) Waiver Training to the curriculum at Wayne State University School of Medicine (WSUSOM).
- An exploratory study demonstrated that while most students wanted training in SUDs and MAT, the majority did not feel equipped to appropriately treat these patients.²
- A preliminary study (n=266) revealed the positive impact of MAT-waiver training on students' opioid addiction knowledge and attitudes, as well as their willingness and comfortability to treat patients with an opioid use disorder (OUD).³
- MAT-waiver training is now a required component of the third year curriculum at WSUSOM since the 2019-2020 school year.

AIM

To determine how MAT training during medical school impacts students' recommendations for management of patients with SUD.

METHODS



Follow-up Survey* questions:

- 1. Did you recommend MAT for a patient? How many times?
- 2. On which rotation(s) did you recommend MAT?
- 3. How many patients do you think would have benefitted?
- 4. What was your confidence in suggesting MAT?
- 5. To whom did you voice your recommendation (patient, attending, resident, etc.)?
- 6. Was your team receptive?
- 7. Did someone else on the team recommend? Who was it?
- 8. Did the recommendation lead to the start of MAT?
- 9. What were your reasons for not recommending?

RESULTS

Primary outcomes:

- 1. How often students recommended MAT
- 2. During which rotations MAT recommendations occurred

Secondary outcomes:

- 1. Receptivity of care team to recommendations
- 2. Whether patient was started on MAT

DISCUSSION

- MAT education is effective in changing attitudes of third year medical students towards patients with OUD.
- This study will determine the impact of training on treatment recommendations of patients cared for by students during the latter half of their medical education.
- This study will also gauge the receptiveness of healthcare teams and patients may be when MAT induction is suggested by a medical student.
- Incorporating MAT training during undergraduate medical education may result in an increase in student recommendations for initiating MAT as a plan of care option, thus helping to address the gap in patients who need SUD treatment yet do not receive it.
- Additionally, by bringing this treatment option into care decision discussions more often, the precepting physicians may be more likely to consider it even after the student has finished their rotation.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Supported by Wayne State University School of Medicine. We thank the students of Detroit vs. Addiction for their assistance.