

Providers

# Clinical innovations in treatment of opioid use disorder

## Addressing Connecticut's opioid crisis

There were over 1300 confirmed drug overdose deaths in 2020\*, a 13% increase over 2019. And that figure is likely to rise further with the COVID pandemic.

The Connecticut Behavioral Health Partnership, in conjunction with Beacon Health Options, promotes the use of Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD), the most effective treatment for Opioid Use Disorder.

There are three FDA-approved MOUD: methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone. Unfortunately, MOUD is not utilized as much as it could be, especially in acute care settings with many inpatient units still relying on traditional withdrawal management protocols. Unlike MOUD, these are associated with higher risk for relapse, as well as accidental overdose and/or death due to decreased physical tolerance.

\*CT Department of Public Health

### Medicaid covers MOUD

The three FDA-approved MOUD come in various formulations under generic and/ or brand name, and with different protocols. Check [here](#) for more information, including which formulations require pre-authorization. All these medications are covered by the Connecticut Medicaid program.

### Increasing access to MOUD

Despite its effectiveness in treating OUD, MOUD could be more widely utilized, especially in acute care settings. Beacon, on behalf of the partnership, works with hospitals and freestanding withdrawal management facilities to offer MOUD, and then connects individuals to community-based providers for ongoing treatment.

Beacon is improving access to prescribers dispensing MOUD by identifying providers our [MAT Map](#). Since 2017, the number of provider locations on our MAT map has increased by over 66%.



## Increasing member engagement and supporting recovery

Studies show that people who continue with MOUD immediately following discharge from an inpatient or freestanding withdrawal management facility have a reduced risk of relapse.

CTBHP's **Changing Pathways** program is designed to increase participants' engagement in MOUD by:

- Educating them on the MOUD options available (with the support of a Beacon Peer Support Specialist)
- Initiating them on MOUD during a withdrawal management episode and then discharging them on a stable dose
- Creating a plan for them to continue MOUD with a community provider

In the program's first year, the number of fully engaged participants **increased 10 times**. In addition, this group experienced a number of positive outcomes.

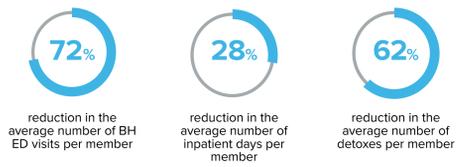


#### Connection to MOUD

In the first year of Changing Pathways, the number of members discharged from withdrawal management who successfully connected to an MOUD provider in the community increased 52%.

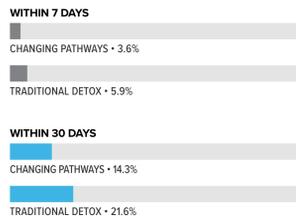
#### Reduction in other behavioral health (BH) episodes

In the program's first year, nearly 40% of engaged participants adhered\* to MOUD for the three-month period following discharge. That is about 2.5 times the number of individuals who went through a traditional detox. These individuals experienced the following positive outcomes when comparing the three months prior to, and following, discharge:



#### Reduction in readmissions

During the program's first year, a significantly lower percentage of engaged participants re-admitted to an inpatient facility within 7 and 30 days of discharge than individuals in traditional detox did.



#### Reduction in overdoses

Individuals who engaged in Changing Pathways in 2020 and remained MOUD adherent\* for 90 days following discharge, experienced a 76% reduction in rate of overdose, from 8.3% to 2.0% of members.

\*Adherence\* means using MOUD at least 80% of days for the three months following discharge.

### Next steps

Interested in locating a MAT Provider for referral? Search the [MAT Map](#).

Do you have a DATA 2000 Waiver and want to be listed on the MAT Provider Locator map? Visit the [MAT Resources page](#) on the CT BHP website or contact the Provider Relations Department at 877-552-8247 Options 1, 3, 7. You can also call or more information on Beacon's MAT Program and how you can become involved.

### Resources

Click [here](#) for a listing of Member SUD Resources.

## Contact us

877-552-8247

Hearing-impaired members, dial 711 Relay Services. When you call, you can request a translator in the language in which you are most comfortable.

ctbhp.com

### Privacy is a priority

Your personal information is kept private as required by state and federal laws. No one will know you have accessed the program services unless you grant permission or express a concern that presents a legal obligation to release information (for example, if it is believed you are a danger to yourself or to others).

