

# Integrated Care Group Visits

A team approach to treating opioid use disorders



**Franciscan**  
HEALTH

Family Medicine Residency  
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# Housekeeping Items

- ✓ No Disclosures
- ✓ No intended distressing or traumatic content, images, or activities
- ✓ Slides and handouts are available
- ✓ Intended audience:  
Physicians, nurses, medical assistants, pharmacists, behavioral health clinicians, and anyone else playing a role in a treatment team.

# Learning Objectives:



1. Participants will be able to list at least 3 benefits relevant to a patient centered medical home utilizing a team based approach to treatment.
2. Participants will be able to identify a target population specific to chronic and/or complex illness group in their own clinic.
3. Participants will be able to clearly define the role of each provider in an integrated care group.

# Integrative

## Health Care

- Care given by **single** provider
- Utilizes conventional and alternative practices accordingly (e.g., pharmaceuticals, acupuncture, meditation, chiropractic, etc.)

# Integrate

- To make into a whole by bringing all parts together
- To join with something else
- Unite
- To make part of a larger unit

# Integrated

## Health Care

- Emphasizes care utilizing a combination of **diverse practitioners** (each practicing to the level of their degree)
- **Team** approach utilizing aspects of different professional cultures to arrive at best treatment plan

Nomenclature

## • **Integrative**

- Care given by **single** provider
- Utilizes conventional & alternative practices accordingly (e.g., pharmaceuticals, acupuncture, meditation, chiropractic, etc.)

Taking into account  
biopsychosocial-  
spiritual aspects  
of lifestyle.

Emphasizing the  
therapeutic  
relationship/  
cohesion

## **Integrated**

- Emphasizes the **combination of diverse practitioners** (each practicing to the level of their degree)
- **Team** approach utilizing aspects of different professional cultures to arrive at best treatment plan

# Shared Medical Appointments/Group Visits

## American Academy of Family Physician Definition



WHEN MULTIPLE PATIENTS ARE SEEN AS A GROUP FOR FOLLOW-UP CARE OR MANAGEMENT OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS.



PROVIDE A SECURE BUT INTERACTIVE SETTING IN WHICH PATIENTS HAVE IMPROVED ACCESS TO THEIR PHYSICIANS, THE BENEFIT OF COUNSELING WITH ADDITIONAL MEMBERS OF A HEALTH CARE TEAM AND CAN SHARE EXPERIENCES AND ADVICE WITH ONE ANOTHER.



INCLUDE INDIVIDUAL EVALUATION AND MANAGEMENT OF EACH PATIENT AS WELL AS COUNSELING WITH THE GROUP AS A WHOLE.



"...GROUP VISITS ARE A PROVEN, EFFECTIVE METHOD FOR ENHANCING A PATIENT'S SELF-CARE OF CHRONIC CONDITIONS, INCREASING PATIENT SATISFACTION, AND IMPROVING OUTCOMES."

# Why Integrated Care Group Visits?



**GROUP VISITS INCREASE RATE OF PREVENTATIVE, SCREENING, AND SURVEILLANCE FOR A VARIETY OF CONDITIONS COMPARED TO INDEPENDENT PRACTITIONERS**

(MEHROTA, ET AL, 2006)



**GROUP VISITS IN IMPROVE PATIENT AND PHYSICIAN SATISFACTION, QUALITY OF CARE, QUALITY OF LIFE, AND DECREASING EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT AND SPECIALIST VISITS**

(JABER & TRILLING, 2006)



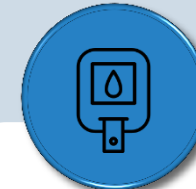
**PREGNANCY: IMPROVED MENTAL HEALTH, KNOWLEDGE, AND BEHAVIORS TO OPTIMIZE OUTCOMES FOR MOTHERS AND CHILDREN**

(BENEDIKTSSON, 2013)



**CHRONIC ILLNESS: REDUCED HOSPITAL ADMISSIONS, EMERGENCY VISITS, AND UTILIZATION OF PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, AND COSTS/PATIENT. HIGHER SATISFACTION WITH THEIR PCP, BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE, AND GREATER SELF-EFFICACY**

(SCOTT ET AL, 2004)



**DIABETES: REDUCED A1C, WEIGHT, DIASTOLIC BLOOD PRESSURE, DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS AND INCREASED PATIENT SATISFACTION**

(RILEY, 2012)



**PAIN: REDUCTION IN PAIN SEVERITY AND DEPRESSIVE SYMPTOMS**

(GARDINER, 2014)



**SUBSTANCE USE: INCREASED COMMUNICATION SKILLS AND SOCIAL SUPPORT TO FOSTER RECOVERY AND REDUCE RELAPSE**

(SOKOL, 2018)

# Addressing the Biopsychosocial-spiritual context

Why start  
any type of  
integrated  
group visit?

## **Access to care:**

- Improves access to medical care and direct medical needs

## **Education:**

- Provide health education and teaching skills for self management

## **Behavioral health:**

- Promotes and enhances strategies for lifestyle and behavioral change and address psychosocial stressors

Addresses gaps in  
treatment and removes  
barriers

- Multiple facilities
- Different providers
- Different treatments
- Different cultures
- Costs and coverage
- Transportation



**Integration  
Addresses  
gaps in  
treatment  
and  
removes  
barriers**

## **Increases**

- Accountability
- Support
- Confidence
- Collaboration
- Competence
- Monitoring

- Lack of self-management
- Relapse
- Stigma
- Misunderstanding
- Physician/ provider burnout
- Missed appointments
- Loss to follow-up
- Costs

## **Reduces**

# Role of Providers: Meeting group members where they are...



Needs change from week to week



Biological – Nursing, Physician, Physical therapy, Pharmacist



Psychological- Behavioral health



Social – Social work; Case manager; other group members



Spiritual – Chaplin; meditation

# Types of Groups

Main Focus of the Group	<b>ACCESS</b> To improve access to medical care and address direct medical needs	<b>EDUCATION</b> To provide health education and teaching skills for self management	<b>BEHAVIORAL CHANGE</b> To promote and enhance strategies for lifestyle and behavioral change
Examples of Group by Focus	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Shared Medical Appointments</li> <li>• Group medical clinics, veterans Administration hospital</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Diabetes self-management education groups by CDE diabetes nurse educators</li> <li>• Health coaching</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Medical group visits</li> <li>• Group psychotherapy</li> <li>• Patient peer-to-peer support groups</li> </ul>

Adapted from: (Eisenstat et al., 2012)

## Diabetes

### Access to care

- Endocrinologist
- Dietician
- Behavioral Health

### Education

- Insulin dosing
- Diet/nutrition

### Behavioral health

- Psychosocial barriers
- Social support

## Weight Loss

### Access to care

- Bariatric specialist
- Dietician
- Behavioral Health

### Education

- Interventions
- Diet/nutrition
- Safe exercise

### Behavioral health

- Emotional triggers for eating
- SMART goals
- Social support

## Chronic Pain

### Access to care

- Physical therapy
- Pain management
- Behavioral health
- Occupational therapy

### Education

- Mind/body connection
- Reasonable movement
- Accommodations

### Behavioral health

- Psychological impact on pain
- Meditation/relaxation
- Social support

## Cancer

### Access to care

- Oncologists
- Behavioral health
- Nursing specialties

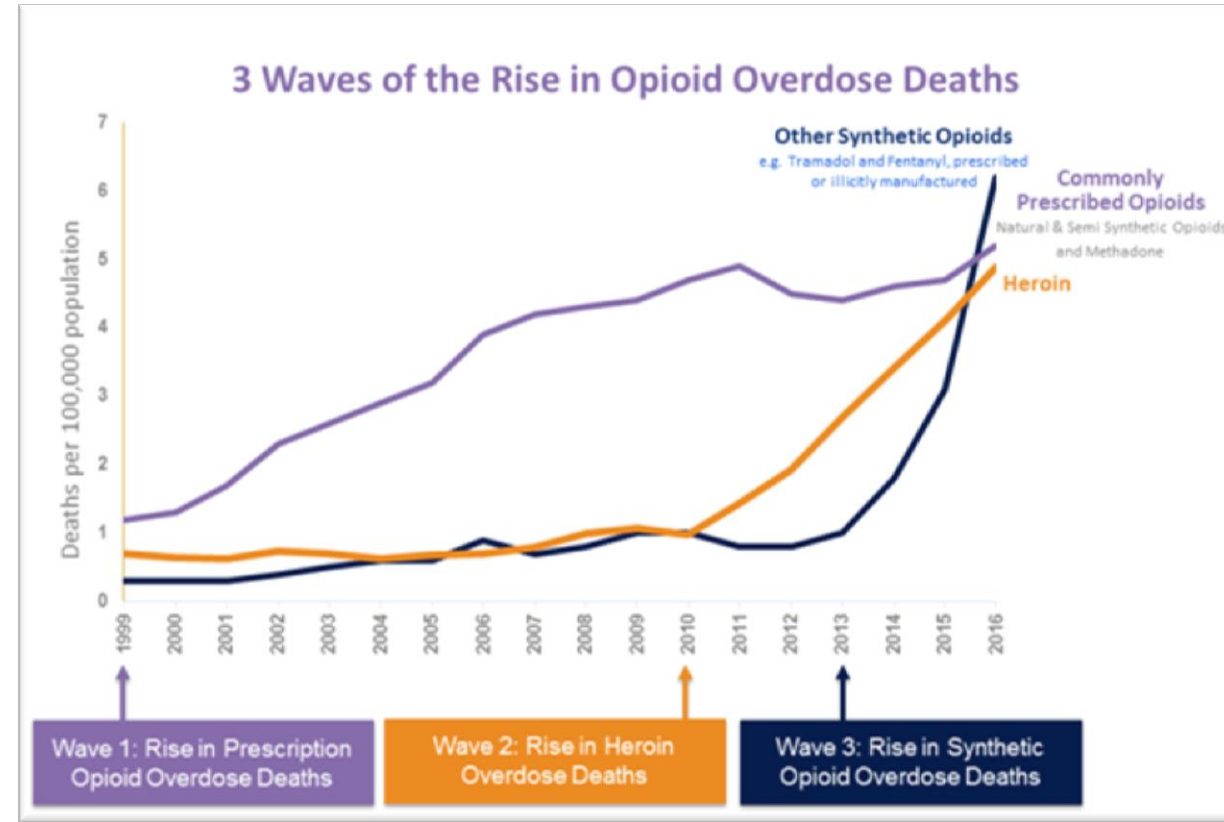
### Education

- Course of treatment
- Evidence based alternatives
- Course of illness

### Behavioral health

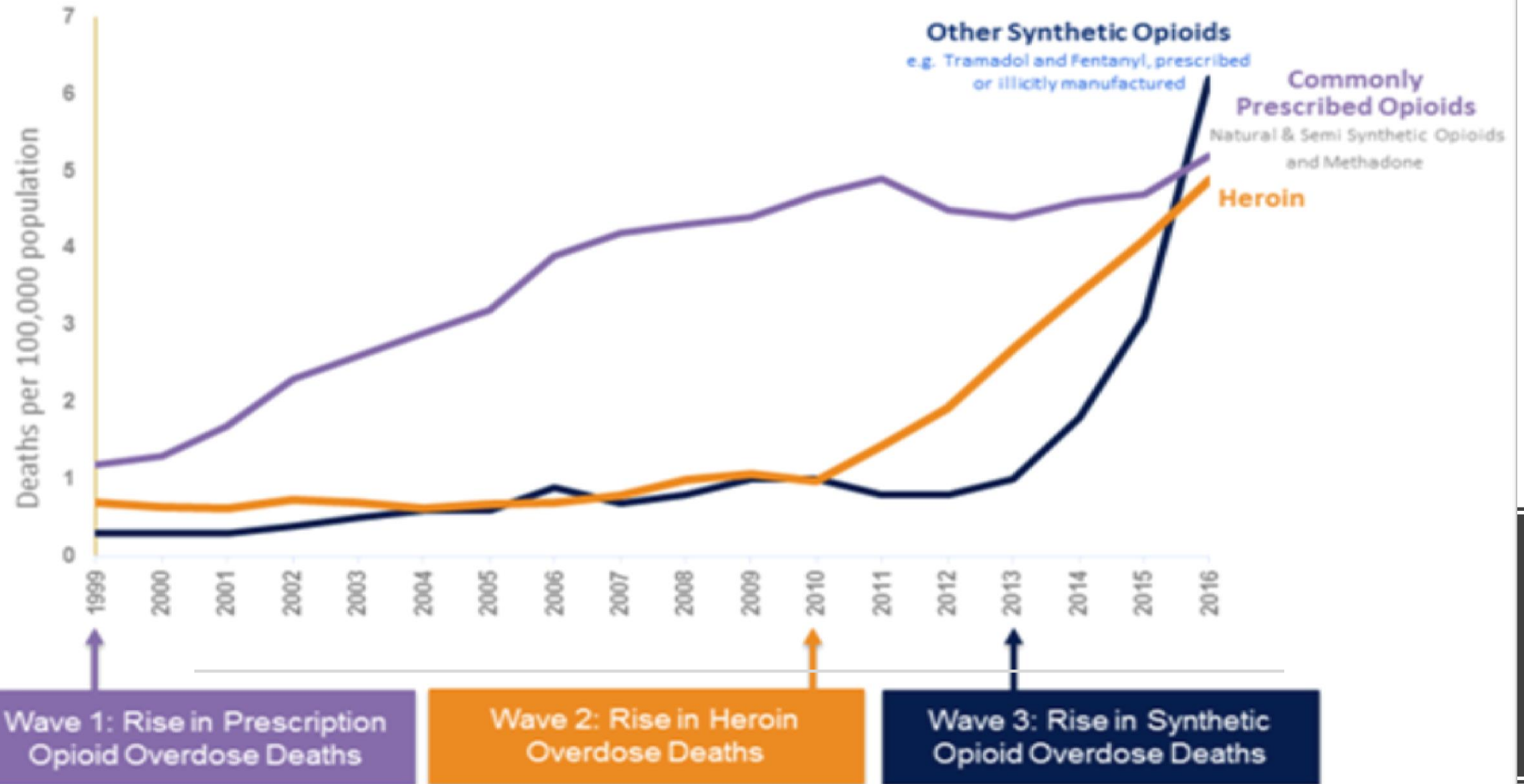
- Impact of chronic illness on spiritual/psychological/physiological connection
- Social support

- From 1999 to 2016, more than 630,000 people have died from a drug overdose, more than 350,000 people died from an overdose involving *any* opioid, including prescription and illicit opioids
- Around 66% of the more than 63,600 drug overdose deaths in 2016 involved an opioid
- In 2016, the number of overdose deaths involving opioids was 5 times higher than in 1999
- On average, 115 Americans die every day from an opioid overdose



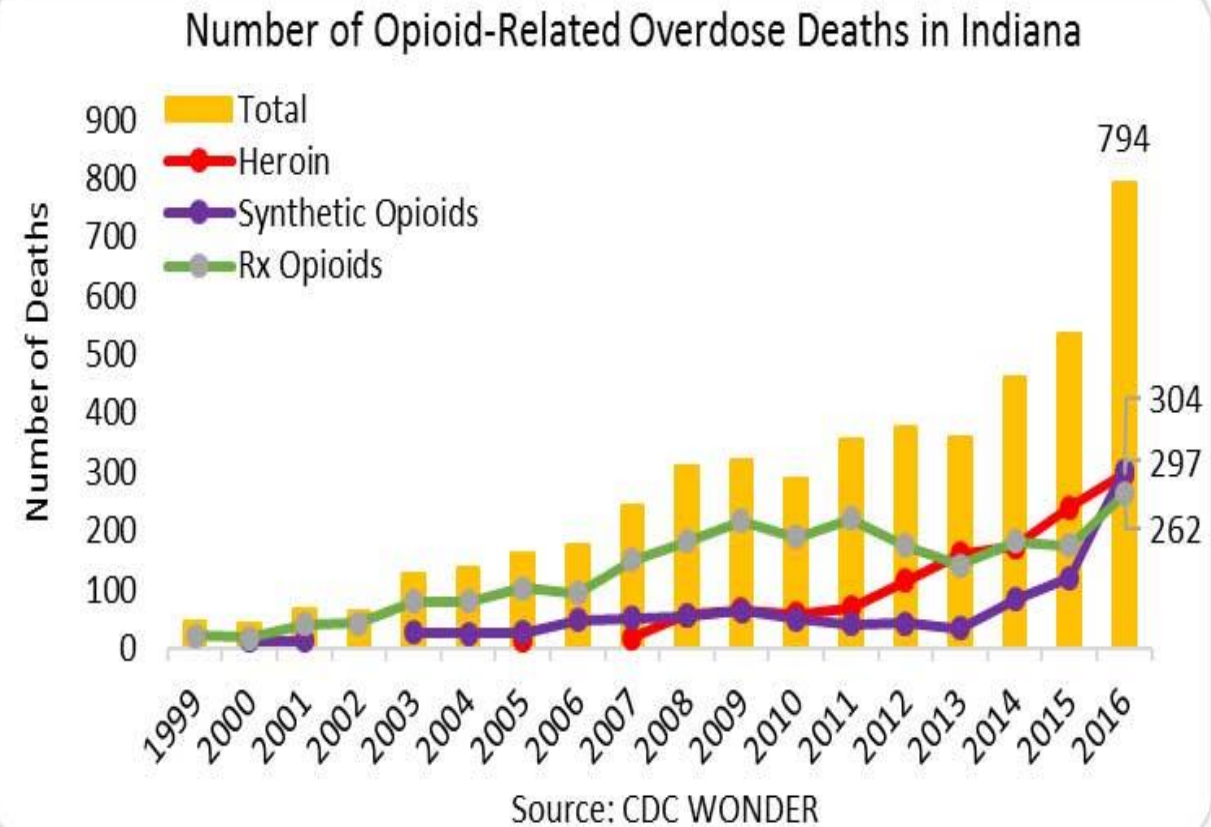
Why start group visits *SPECIFIC* to opioid use disorder?

## 3 Waves of the Rise in Opioid Overdose Deaths



# Our Clinic

- Family Medicine Residency
- South-side Indianapolis, Indiana
  - Marion, Hancock, Johnson Counties
  - Demographics
    - Refugee population
    - 12.3% 65y+
    - 51.8% Female
    - 45% Non-white
  - Insurance
    - 20% Commercial
    - 60% Medicaid
    - 20% Medicare



# Effective Treatments for Opioid Use Disorder



## Medication Assisted Treatment

Methadone

Buprenorphine

Suboxone®

Subutex®

Zubsolv®

Naltrexone

ReVia®

Vivitrol®

Depade®

- Suboxone treatment in an office-based setting yields the largest percentages of opioid-free urine samples, opioid detoxification, and treatment retention rates (Shah et al., 2014).
- The use of medications in *combination* with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders.
- Successful detoxification and behavioral therapy are highly associated with sustained opioid abstinence.



## MAT

- Lack of available prescribers
- Lack of support for existing prescribers
- Workforce attitudes and misunderstandings about the nature and use of medications
- Limits on dosages prescribed
- Initial authorization and reauthorization requirements
- “Fail first” criteria requiring other therapies be tried first

- Childcare
- Working hours
- Caregiver dependence
- Different cultures/belief systems
- Gas
- Transportation
- Lack of support
- Interpersonal conflicts



- Multiple facilities
- Different providers
- Different treatments
- Different cultures
- Costs and coverage
- Lack of self-management
- Relapse
- Stigma
- Misunderstanding
- Physician/provider burnout
- Missed appointments
- Loss to follow-up

## Behavioral Health

- Minimal counseling coverage
- Stigma associated with long term use of “replacement”
- Does not fit current model of chemical dependency
- Behavioral health records protected and prescriber may have limited information regarding progress
- Limited access to appointments with BH



# Gaps in clinical care AND patient Recovery

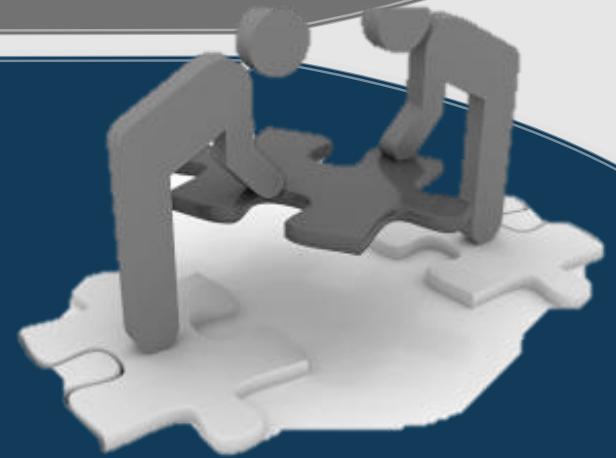


# Structure of Group

## Hybrid (semi-open/semi-closed) Model

- No end date
- Rolling admission
- Some predetermined specific goals
- Predetermined population / illness
- Open access appointments (somewhat)

- 2x per month
- Vitals
- Visit with PCP
- Psychotherapy/education group
- Check-ins between groups if needed



# Design: Screening



## Protocol:

Identified by PCP →  
Referred to trained provider  
(prescriber) →  
BH intake →  
Attend group



## Inclusion criteria

- At least **one** month after initiated MAT
- Established patient
- Availability



## Exclusion criteria

- Needs higher level of care
- Patients on other forms of MAT
- Patients without childcare
- Well established in another setting

# Typical group outline (90 minutes total)



5 minutes

10 minutes

5-10 minutes

50 minutes

5 minutes

5 minutes



BH/Nursing

Nursing

Physician

BH/other

Everyone

BH/other



Check-in

- Check in – mood/status
- Indicate next group appointment – schedule next appointment
- Patient completes self-report COWs



Pre-visit

- Check in – changes to physical health
- Record vitals (weight, blood pressure, temperature, heartrate)
- UDS (if necessary)



Medical visit

- Review COWs
- Pill/strip count
- Discuss status and challenges
- Urgent issues



Group

- Education
- Support
- Processing
- Focus on topic – determined by direct feedback from group or current group climate



Feedback

- How has group been going
- How can you use what we talked about today to apply to your life outside of group



(Optional)

- Quick meditation/relaxation to decompress

	Non-group ( <i>n</i> =9)	Group ( <i>n</i> =8)
Gender (% Female)	66	86
Average age	39	34
Insurance (%):		
State	78	75
Medicare	11	0
Commercial	11	25
Custody of children(%):		
Yes	22	75*
No	22	0
Does not apply	33	25
Unknown	22	0
Method of use (%):		
IV heroin	56	13
Intranasal heroin	22	13
Pills oral or intranasal	22	74

## Demographics

\*All have lost in the past

# Outcomes:

## Comparing group visits to treatment as usual

Outcome	Non-group ( $n=9$ )	Group ( $n=8$ )
Average Number of Relapses after starting buprenorphine/person	1	0.75
Inconsistent Drug screens (%)	15.3	39 (2 participants had 82%)

- #1 = Majority Marijuana – unable to get a few patients to stop use (pain, sleep)
- #2 = Benzo – often not perceived as “problem”
- #3 = Alcohol – similar
- #4 = Meth
- #5 = Ultram – not a relapse, pt unaware of opioid properties

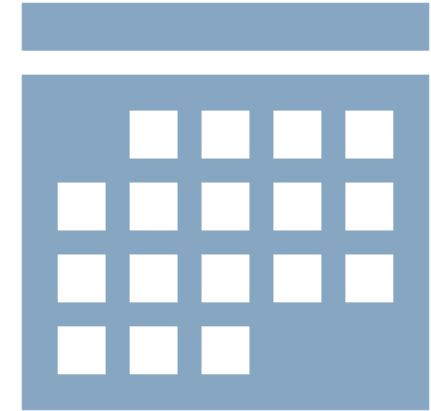
# Discussion

## Limitations

- Payment method (Insurance commercial vs. Medicaid)
- Billing/coding/reimbursement
- Childcare
- Transportation
- Group scheduling

# Scheduling

- **Struggles:**
  - Group scheduling on same provider
  - Front office –not all members clear on group scheduling
  - 2 providers schedules
- **Pearls:**
  - Have one point person for all group scheduling
  - Get confirmation from patient which group they will be at next (2 vs 4 week)
  - Discuss billing plans with appropriate people to confirm workflow allows



# Discussion

## Future Directions

- Family/significant other support group visits
- Grant to support more programs
- Childcare
- Evening group
- More resident involvement
- Smooth transitions to new residents





# Questions

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# Supplemental Sides





## Practical Resources to get you started

- Putting Group Visits Into Practice (Eisenstat, 2012)
- Development and implementation of group medical visits at a family medicine center (Barud, 2006).
- Introduction to group medical appointments (Schmucker, 2005).
- Group medical visits: a glimpse into the future? (Enhancing Your Practice) (Noffsinger, 2003).
- Thinking outside the box! Enhance Patient Education by Using Shared Medical Appointments (Kuiken & Seiffert, 2005)
- Expanding the Use of Medications to treat individuals with substance Use disorders in safety-net settings (SAMHSA)



# Sample Syllabus



- Neurobiology of addiction
- Connecting our thoughts, behaviors, feelings/emotions to events
- SMART goals
- Communication (non-verbal vs. verbal)
- Identifying emotions and valence associated with level of intensity
- Barriers to treatment and relapse planning
- Adaptive vs. Maladaptive coping
- Internal vs. external triggers and coping
- Forgiveness
- Identifying stages of change and self-reflection of past, present and future
- Promoting social support and safety planning
- Role of trauma in chemical dependence
- Art therapy to assess barriers to change
- Mindfulness
- Unhelpful thinking patterns
- Acceptance and commitment for triggers for relapse

Demographic	Non-group ( <i>n</i> =9)	Group ( <i>n</i> =8)
Gender (% Female)	66	86
Average age	39	34
Insurance (%): State Medicare Commercial	78 11 11	75 0 25
Custody of children(%): Yes No Does not apply Unknown	22 22 33 22	75 (All have lost in past) 0 25 0
Method of use (%): IV Heroin Intranasal heroin Pills – oral or intranasal	56 22 22	13 13 74
Average Number of Relapses after starting buprenorphine	1	0.75
Inconsistent Drug screens (%)	15.3	39 (2 participants had 82%)



	Patient Satisfaction Survey	Completely False	Mostly False	Neither True nor False	Mostly True	Completely True
1	The group was well organized	1	2	3	4	5
2	The facilitator(s) cared about me as a person	1	2	3	4	5
3	The group members worked together to achieve goals	1	2	3	4	5
4	The facilitator(s) noticed and told me when I did something well	1	2	3	4	5
5	I was able to participate and express myself in the group	1	2	3	4	5
6	The facilitator(s) encouraged me to achieve my goals	1	2	3	4	5
7	The focus of the group was on the right issues	1	2	3	4	5
8	The facilitator(s) understood me and my needs	1	2	3	4	5
9	I learned what I was hoping to learn	1	2	3	4	5
10	The group/information was easy to understand	1	2	3	4	5
		Poor	Fair	Good	Very Good	Excellent
11	Overall rating of the facilitator(s)	1	2	3	4	5
12	Overall rating of the group	1	2	3	4	5
	Would you recommend this group to others				Yes	No

# Self-Reported "COWS"

## QUALITY CARE THERAPY PROGRESS REPORT (Adapted from Subjective Opiate Withdrawal Scale)

### Instructions:

- Patient fills out "COMPLETED BY PATIENT" section and brings form to counselor
- Counselor fills out and signs "COMPLETED BY COUNSELOR" section and returns form to patient
- Patient brings form to physician. Physician fills out "COMPLETED BY PHYSICIAN" section and files with patient records

Patient Name \_\_\_\_\_ Medication dose \_\_\_\_\_ mg/day Date \_\_\_\_\_

### COMPLETED BY PATIENT

Circle the answer that best fits the way you feel now

	Not at all				Extremely
I feel anxious	0	1	2	3	4
I feel like yawning	0	1	2	3	4
I am perspiring	0	1	2	3	4
My nose is running and/or my eyes are watery	0	1	2	3	4
I have goosebumps and/or chills	0	1	2	3	4
I feel nauseated or like I may need to vomit	0	1	2	3	4
I have stomach cramps and/or diarrhea	0	1	2	3	4
My muscles twitch	0	1	2	3	4
I feel dehydrated and/or have not had much appetite	0	1	2	3	4
I am having difficulty sleeping	0	1	2	3	4
I have a headache	0	1	2	3	4
My muscles and bones ache	0	1	2	3	4
I feel like using right now	0	1	2	3	4
I would rate my overall level of withdrawal as	0	1	2	3	4
Do you feel you need a dosage change?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> Up <input type="checkbox"/> Down				
Have you used alcohol or other drugs since your last visit?	<input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> Yes				
If "yes," please describe what, when, and how much					

Handelsman L, Cochrane KJ, Aronson MJ, Ness R, Rubinstein KJ, Kanof PD. (1987). Two new rating scales for opiate withdrawal. *Am J Drug Alcohol Abuse*. 13(3):293-308.

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Please describe any life changes, triggers, or stressors that have occurred since your last visit.