



The Addiction Recovery Clinic: A novel primary-care based approach to teaching Addiction Medicine



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Needs and Objectives

- Substance use is prevalent in the US and has created a major public health burden
- Little curricular time is devoted to training in Addiction Medicine (AM) for Internal Medicine (IM) residents
- Our objectives in creating the Addiction Recovery Clinic (ARC):
 - Provide outpatient clinical services to patients with addiction
 - Provide residents with the knowledge and skills to understand and assess the biologic basis of addiction
 - Educate IM residents regarding pharmacologic and non-pharmacologic treatments for addiction

Setting and Participants

- Embedded within our outpatient Adult Primary Care center, one ½ day session per week
- Staffed by two board-certified AM attending physicians (SH and JT), two additional buprenorphine-licensed IM physicians (SS and NS), one licensed clinical psychologist (DC), one AM fellow, and two to four IM residents per session.
- Residents rotate for ½ day per week for four consecutive weeks during ambulatory rotation
- Each session is preceded by 20 minutes of AM-related didactic teaching

Description

- Patient referrals to ARC generated from:
 - Inpatient service where treatment plan is initiated during inpatient stay, including buprenorphine and naltrexone
 - Resident's own continuity practice
 - An intensive outpatient program (IOP) affiliated with Yale-New Haven Hospital
- Services provided within the clinic:
 - Buprenorphine induction, stabilization and maintenance for patients with opioid use disorder
 - Pharmacotherapy for alcohol use disorder
 - Counseling and case management services available to all patients
 - Contingency management
 - Direct referral to other resources (e.g., IOP, enhanced counseling services) or higher levels of care (e.g., inpatient or methadone treatment)

Evaluation

- Resident knowledge and skill acquisition measured by a novel Entrustable Professional Activity-based evaluation system specifically designed for this rotation
 - Three EPAs across ten domains
- Resident satisfaction evaluated by standard rotation evaluations. Common themes include:
 - Importance of continuity of care from week to week
 - Residents emphasized utility of pre-clinic teaching on AM topics, as many concepts unfamiliar to them, including pharmacology of buprenorphine and naltrexone
 - Appreciated role-modeling by faculty with regards to direct, empathic approach to patients, emphasizing goal-setting and trust
- Clinical practice is evaluated by referral and visit numbers and patient satisfaction surveys

Clinical Practice Data, N=62

Characteristic	
Average age	46 years
Male gender	56%
Primary diagnosis	
Opioid use disorder	58%
Alcohol use disorder	22%
Cocaine use disorder	9%
Insurance	
Medicaid	55%
Private	19%
Referral Mechanism	
Outpatient	58%
Inpatient	42%

Patient Satisfaction, N=15

- 100% of patients report the ARC probably or definitely helped them to cope with their addiction
 - 73% of patients report they were definitely satisfied with the overall treatment they have received
- "Finally feel like I am not treated like an addict, but treated as a person."*

Lessons Learned

- The ARC is a novel approach to teaching AM to IM residents
- Residents are very satisfied learning AM in this setting while providing needed care
- ARC also provides access to care for patients with addiction

Sample EPA domain

Task	Critical Deficiency	Early Learner	Advancing Learner	Ready for Independent Practice	Aspirational	Linked Milestones
Common Complications of Addictive Disorders	Lacks the knowledge and understanding of common complications of addictive disorders	Developing an understanding of common complications of addictive disorders, consistently requires input to evaluate patients for, and treat the common complications of addictive disorders.	Developing an understanding of common complications of addictive disorders, occasionally requires input to evaluate patients for, and treat the common complications of addictive disorders.	Consistently and independently understands, evaluates patients for, and treat the common complications of addictive disorders.	Understands, evaluates for and treats unusual complications of addictive disorders	MK1, PC2, PC3