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Innovation in Education

Poster Title

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

Authors

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Abstract

Background

**Objectives:** Despite the high prevalence of substance use in Internal Medicine (IM) practice, little curricular time is devoted to training IM residents in Addiction Medicine (AM). We developed and launched the Yale Addiction Recovery Clinic (ARC), intended to meet this educational deficit while also providing an outpatient clinical service to patients with addictive disorders.

**Setting and participants:** The ARC is embedded within our adult Primary Care Residency Clinic and is staffed by IM trainees, two AM certified attending physicians, one AM Fellow, one social worker and a licensed behavioral psychologist and provides comprehensive care to patients with addiction. During their ambulatory rotation, trainees spend half a day per week for four consecutive weeks at the ARC.

**Description:** Services provided within the clinic include: treatment of opioid use disorder with buprenorphine induction, maintenance therapy, and behavioral counseling; treatment of alcohol use disorder with pharmacotherapy and behavioral counseling, consultative services for other drugs of abuse, smoking cessation pharmacotherapy and counseling, and direct referral to local addiction treatment facilities for patients who cannot be safely managed within the ARC.

**Evaluation:** Between August 2014 and December 2014, a total of 212 visits were seen with an average of 11 patients seen during each half-day session. 50% of patients were seen for opioid use disorder, 30% for alcohol use disorder and 20% for other substance use disorder. Patient satisfaction surveys are currently being collected and analyzed. Residents are evaluated using a novel Entrustable Professional Activity based system specifically designed for this rotation.

**Discussion:** The ARC offers a unique primary care-based approach to teaching IM residents the knowledge and skills to identify, diagnose, treat and prevent addiction throughout the disease spectrum.