Evaluating Implementation of Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder Train-the-Trainer (SCOUTT) Program

Evaluating VA’s implementation of the SCOUTT Program

Working closely with the VA Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention, our evaluation center uses a prospective, mixed-methods design to assess whether the SCOUTT program improves access to opioid use disorder (OUD) care and to identify barriers that inhibit and facilitators that promote its success.

Developing Tools to Support Implementation

The increase in opioid prescribing is associated with parallel increases in overdose deaths and opioid use disorder (OUD). Our center is evaluating the implementation of VA's SCOUTT initiative, which seeks to spread a stepped care model of medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) nationally.

Guided by the Reach, Effectiveness, Adoption, Implementation and Maintenance (RE-AIM) framework, our evaluation center:

- Collects quantitative and qualitative information to evaluate VA's implementation of SCOUTT
- Develops informatic tools and detailed reports to support implementation and monitor progress
- Identifies barriers and facilitators to inform current and future implementation efforts
Our center developed three informatic tools to standardize MOUD care nationally:

- **OUD Assessment Template**: released May 2019; used 520 times in FY20
- **Buprenorphine Initiation Template**: released Jan 2020; used 237 times in FY20
- **Buprenorphine Follow-up Template**: released Sept 2020; used 137 times in FY20

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**Assessing SCOUTT Impacts in VA**

VA has implemented the SCOUTT Program in 18 VA facilities representing all VISNs. Results from our evaluation center suggest:

- **164% increase** in patients with OUD receiving buprenorphine, a medication for OUD, in SCOUTT clinics.

- **169% increase** in providers prescribing buprenorphine in SCOUTT clinics.

*Includes patients with a diagnosis of OUD seen in the implementation clinic.

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For more information, check out: [https://vaww.portal.va.gov/sites/OMHS/SUD/SCOUTT/default.aspx](https://vaww.portal.va.gov/sites/OMHS/SUD/SCOUTT/default.aspx)

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