

IMPLEMENTING STEPPED CARE FOR OPIOID USE DISORDER TRAIN THE TRAINER (SCOUTT) INITIATIVE

VA



U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs
Veterans Health Administration
Quality Enhancement Research Initiative

Our team is implementing a comprehensive plan to train interdisciplinary teams in Primary Care, General Mental Health, and Pain Clinics to deliver a stepped care model of medication treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD).

Expanding Access to Medication for Opioid Use Disorder

Recognizing the urgent need to improve access to OUD care, the VHA Office of Mental Health & Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) launched the Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder, Train the Trainer (SCOUTT) Initiative to facilitate access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) in VHA. Our team is working closely with OMHSP to increase MOUD prescribing in VHA primary care, mental health, and pain clinics by training providers working in those settings on how to provide MOUD and to facilitate implementation by providing an ongoing learning collaborative.

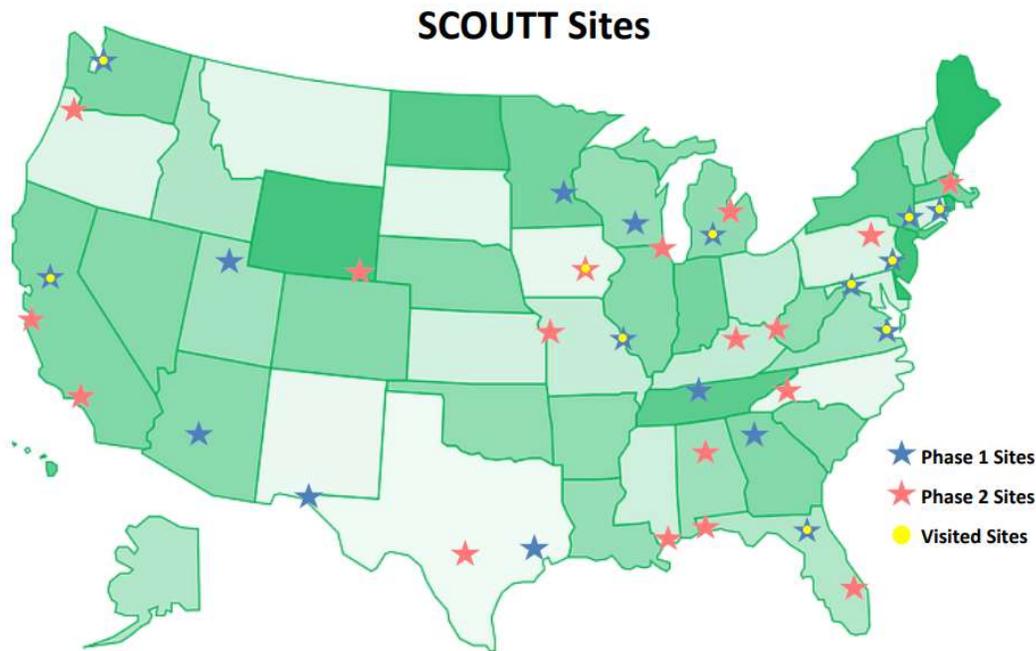
We are leveraging a combination of implementation strategies, train the trainer model, and educational offerings. The trainer or subject matter expert trains other practitioners within the SCOUTT Facilitation Implementation Team on a model of care for medication treatment for opioid use disorder to Veterans. The participating practitioner then learns the subject matter, implements it at their facility, and simultaneously learns how to teach the model and help the implementation of SCOUTT at another site within their facility or expand the program to another facility.

Key metrics used to monitor progress on prescribing include:

- The number of Veterans with an OUD who were prescribed buprenorphine or injectable naltrexone by implementation clinic prescribers
- The number of implementation clinic prescribers who prescribed these medications to Veterans with an OUD
- The number of Veterans with an OUD who filled 90 or more days of buprenorphine.

Successful Implementation Across 36 VA Sites

SCOUTT sites are spread out all over the United States. Although site visits have been put on hold due to the pandemic, virtual site visits and trainings have allowed newer sites to begin implementation.



Having established at least one (and in many cases two or more) Level 1 clinics at 18 different VA facilities, the teams of the facilities are now charged to expand to another facility to develop a Level 1 clinic (primary care, mental health, pain clinic) to start medication treatment for OUD.

The SCOUTT initiative conducted a national 3-day virtual conference in September, 2020. Teams from current SCOUTT facilities and “expansion sites” within their VISN were brought together discuss SCOUTT, models of care, and MOUD treatment.

Principal Investigators:

Adam J. Gordon, MD, MPH (VA Salt Lake City)
Hildi J. Hagedorn, PhD (Co Investigator Minneapolis)
Princess E. Ackland, PhD, MSPH (Co Investigator Minneapolis)
Amanda M. Midboe, PhD (Co Investigator Palo Alto)

For more information, check out:
<https://tinyurl.com/SCOUTT VA>

If you would like to learn more or partner with us, please contact: Nodira.Codell@va.gov