

MULTIDISCIPLINARY SUPPORT FOR BUPRENORPHINE-NALOXONE TREATMENT OF OPIOID USE DISORDER



Allana Hall | 2019 | RUOP iii-3 | University of Washington School of Medicine

Hypothesis: Buprenorphine-naloxone administration, coupled with a network of supportive behavioral health and preventative services, provides an effective treatment and community intervention for opioid use disorder, as evidenced through the approach at Confluence Health in Wenatchee, WA.

Background

- Wenatchee, WA is a city of approximately 34,000 within the Chelan-Douglas counties area, encompassing another nearly 77,000 people served by the Confluence Health system
- Agricultural hub deemed "Apple Capital of the World"
- Racial composition primarily white (Chelan Co.: 67.5%, Douglas Co.: 63.8%) and Hispanic/Latinx (Chelan Co. 28.3%, Douglas Co.: 32.1%)
- Average of 17.6 annual opioid use associated deaths in the region served by Confluence Health
- Poverty rate of ~13.3% compared to 11.0% in Washington state as a whole



Wenatchee, Washington, located along the Columbia River at the eastern foothills of the Cascade Range

Public Health Concern

- Opioid overdose deaths a major policy concern in Washington state with Executive Order 16-09 of 2016 and HB 1427 of 2017 passed to lessen morbidity and mortality from opioid use disorder
- Other associated community health concerns include HIV & Hepatitis, disability, and criminality
- Risk Factors include chronic pain, history of mental illness or substance abuse, over prescription, Adverse Childhood Experiences

Literature Review

- Research supports use of combination therapy with buprenorphine, an opioid partial agonist to reduce opioid cravings and withdrawal along with naloxone, an opioid receptor antagonist to lower abuse and diversion potential in treatment of opioid use disorder
- Both tablet and sublingual forms have been shown to be effective in an outpatient setting



Brand name buprenorphine-naloxone used to treat both heroin and synthetic opioid dependence

Conclusion

- The community of Wenatchee and it's surrounding area has made extensive, integrated efforts to treat and prevent opioid use disorder
- Includes collaboration between community organizations such as The Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment, and licensed buprenorphine-naloxone prescribers providing frequent appointments and medication schedules adjusted according to patient needs and compliance
- Efforts continue to be made to promote safe prescribing practices, community awareness, and access to treatment
- Physician practice is improved by learning from and working alongside mental health and addiction professionals in managing opioid dependence and use disorder

Community Profile Assets

- Growing number of buprenorphine-naloxone prescribers in Wenatchee through incentive plan
- Algorithms in place to monitor and counsel providers prescribing above designated morphine-equivalent dose thresholds
- Significant number of independent survivor groups (ex. Narcotics Anonymous)
- The Center for Alcohol and Drug Treatment provides individual and group therapy
- Installation of six drug collection/disposal receptacles in Chelan and Douglas counties through Confluence Health's community medication take back program

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