



Governor's Task Force on Prescription Drug & Heroin Abuse



Treatment Workgroup Recommendations

March 19, 2015



Treatment Workgroup Accepted Recommendations

1. To reduce stigma and increase access, provide education about addiction and Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) to health care providers, students, CSBs, Law Enforcement, and Communities
2. Explore ways to enhance MAT through CSBs, Drug Treatment Courts, and jail-based treatment
3. Create training opportunities for health care professionals, both in training and in practice, on how to treat addiction and how to diagnose or manage chronic pain
4. Enhance and enforce a standard of care for treatment with office-based buprenorphine
5. Ensure health plans are complying with the Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act by providing adequate coverage for treatment, including MAT
6. Examine and enhance Medicaid reimbursement for substance abuse treatment services
7. Expand access to naloxone by lay rescuers and law enforcement to prevent death from overdose
8. Explore and expand use of appropriate peer support services, with necessary oversight
9. Expand use of the Prescription Monitoring Program
10. Increase access to naloxone by allowing pharmacists to dispense naloxone under proper protocols



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Treatment Workgroup Recommendation Update

- 1) To reduce stigma and increase access, provide education about addiction and Medical Assisted Treatment (MAT) to health care providers, students, CSBs, Law Enforcement, and Communities
 - a) **Endorse a Consensus Statement on the Use of Medications in Treatment of Substance Use Disorders**



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
www.dcj.virginia.gov

Draft Consensus Statement

Excerpted from the National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors Consensus Statement

- “Individuals seeking treatment for substance use disorders should be educated about all treatment options, including use of medications, so they may make informed decisions about their care. For some people, medication will be unnecessary. For others, it may be a helpful tool for recovery...



Draft Consensus Statement

- ...For still others, medication (such as methadone, buprenorphine, naltrexone), will be a crucial component of treatment without which the prognosis for recovery is very poor. In all cases, the use of addiction medications should be considered and supported as a viable treatment strategy...



Virginia Department of
Criminal Justice Services
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Draft Consensus Statement

- ...in conjunction with other evidence-based practices and as a path to recovery for individuals struggling with substance use disorders. In addition, we recommend that public and private health insurance plans cover medications for the treatment of opioid dependence.”



Virginia Department of
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www.dcjs.virginia.gov



Treatment Workgroup Recommendation Update

2) Enhance and enforce a standard of care for treatment with office-based buprenorphine

a) **Recommend that Department of Health Professions develop requirements and recommendations for evidence-based treatment with office-based buprenorphine**



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Treatment Workgroup Recommendation Updates

3) Ensure health plans are complying with the Mental Health Parity Act by providing adequate coverage for treatment, including MAT

a) **HB1747 – Del O'Bannon**
Requires group and individual plans provide MH/SU benefits, in parity with med/surg benefits
Requires Bureau of Insurance (BOI) to compile annual report on denied claims, complaints, appeals



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Treatment Workgroup Recommendation Updates

- 3) Ensure health plans are complying with the Mental Health Parity Act by providing adequate coverage for treatment, including MAT
 - a) Encourage patients and family members to appeal coverage denials for substance use treatment
 - b) Seek additional information from BOI and VDH on coverage of substance use treatment



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- 3) Ensure health plans are complying with the Mental Health Parity Act by providing adequate coverage for treatment, including MAT
 - c) Seek additional information from DHRM on coverage of substance use treatment for state employees



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- 3) Ensure health plans are complying with the Mental Health Parity Act by providing adequate coverage for treatment, including MAT
 - d) **Seek additional information from DMAS on coverage of substance use treatment for Medicaid beneficiaries**



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- 4) Examine and enhance Medicaid reimbursement for substance abuse treatment services
 - a) **Seek additional data from DMAS on coverage of substance use treatment for Medicaid beneficiaries**



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Questions & Comments?



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Co-Chairs: Jennifer Lee, MD, & Delegate John O'Bannon

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