Treating Substance Use Disorders: Enhancing Attendance at the Weekly Inpatient Medication Assisted Treatment Group

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**Problem/Impact Statement:**

There is currently a lack of attendance at the once weekly inpatient Integrated Medication Assisted Treatment (IMAT) education group. Participation ranges from approximately 25 – 50% of medically stable patients consented to the IMAT treatment program, and the goal of the project is to better understand the barriers and institute a process that leads to increased attendance.

**Scope:**

**In scope:** Medically stable patients consented (patient agrees to medication assisted treatment with buprenorphine, methadone, or naltrexone; estimated length of stay 30 or more days) to the inpatient IMAT program.

**Out of scope:** All other patients with substance use disorders who are invited to the group and medically unstable patients (requiring telemetry, hemodynamically compromised, altered mental status, etc.).

**Goal/Objective:**

Improve group attendance to a minimum of 50% of medically stable patients who have consented to participate in the IMAT program.

**Baseline Metrics/Current State:**

IMAT Weekly Group Attendance Baseline Data

![Attendance Chart]

**Root Cause Analysis:**

- **Technology**
  - EPIC order unavailable
  - Procedure/Testing
  - Staff unaware transport available
  - Staff forgot
  - Provider
  - On telemetry
  - Sleeping
  - Visitors

- **Medical stability**
  - Medical stability
  - Declined/Disinterested

- **Patient**
  - Patient with other provider
  - Off the floor

**Group Absence**

**Countermeasures**

- **10/2018**
  - Interviewed unit nursing leaders to identify barriers to patients participating in the group.
  - Initiated KPI to collect and assess baseline group participation data.
  - Began in person requests to nursing for patient attendance on group day.

- **11/2018**
  - Collaborated with the transport service to add R1 conference room as a destination in Teletracking.
  - Trialed nursing communication order in EPIC, decided a more specific order was needed.

- **12/2018**
  - Requested specific IMAT group order for use in EPIC.
  - Coordinated with the transport service to add R1 conference room as a destination in Teletracking.
  - Trialed nursing communication order in EPIC, decided a more specific order was needed.

- **03/2019**
  - Group order live in EPIC, requirements not fully met.
  - Discontinued in person requests to nursing for patient attendance on group day.

- **04/2019**
  - Data collection indicated order needs further refinement.
  - Resumed in person requests to nursing for patient attendance on group day.
  - Met with nursing informatics to discuss and request further development of EPIC order.
  - Began attending nursing bed board meeting on group day to inform nursing units of eligible group participants.
  - Discontinued in person requests to nursing for patient attendance on group day.

**Behavioral Health and Substance Abuse Orders**

**Outcomes**

1. Group Order live in EPIC
2. Discontinued in person requests to nursing for patient attendance
3. Began attending bed board on group day

**Next Steps**

- Continue weekly bed board attendance prior to group.
- Ongoing nursing and care management education
- Continue using current EPIC order.
- Continue to work with nursing informatics to develop EPIC order, an appointment feature will be available in the future.
- Lessons learned
  - Face-to-face communication yielded stronger results.
  - Facilitating an inpatient group presents unique challenges.