

Interprofessional Education of Future Providers in Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder: The CU AMC iCLOUD Program

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Background: Nearly 600 people died of opioid overdose in Colorado in 2018, and approximately 47,000 Colorado residents live with opioid use disorder. A key strategy in state and local public health prevention efforts is to equip medical providers with training and knowledge specific to the treatment of opioid use disorder – and other substance use disorders – before graduation from professional school.

Program Objective: In September 2019, Anschutz Medical Campus at the University of Colorado was awarded a three year SAMHSA training grant for the proposed Interprofessional Clinical Opioid Use Disorder (ICLOUD) Curriculum. The goal of the project is to increase the number of health sciences students in the University of Colorado’s medical (MD), physician assistant (PA), and nurse practitioner (NP) programs who will graduate with the training required to receive an “X Waiver” permitting prescription of buprenorphine products to treat opioid use disorder. A cornerstone of the grant will be the expansion of clinical addiction-related rotations, empowering graduates to better diagnose and treat those living with substance use disorder.

Methods: The ICLOUD Curriculum will reach at least 900 MD, PA, and NP students over the course of the grant, providing classroom-based didactics on the prevention, diagnosis, and treatment of substance use disorders, with particular focus on opioid use disorder. This classroom-based training will be reinforced with requisite completion of 8 hours of online SAMHSA-approved training towards completion of the federal requirements for an “X Waiver.” education and at least 45 clinical hours of hands-on experience in addition to the required X-Waiver training. The logic model for activities will include: standardized, evidence-based online modules for all learners; interprofessional, faculty-facilitated book clubs and symposia offerings; innovative community-based clinical experiences that cross sub-specialties and disciplines; and virtual support for graduates to access CU faculty post-graduation for continuing professional development for alumni of the program. Process evaluation will inform additional educational innovations that support interprofessional learning through shared coursework and clinical experiences.

Evaluation plan: The project will be evaluated using continuous quality improvement methods and program evaluation. SAMHSA’s CSAT evaluation tool will be used for all training evaluations. Students will complete reflection papers on interprofessional education book clubs and related symposia experiences. Outcome evaluation will include the number of students participating by program, by year, and post-graduation metrics related to receipt and use of the provider’s “X Waiver” in their clinical practice.