



SNOCAP

State Network of Colorado Ambulatory Practices & Partners



AUGUST 2020



FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear SNOCAP friends and partners,

Here we are five months or more into the pandemic and no clear end in sight. The ways it has impact us personally, professionally and nationally are too numerous to begin to understand. I hope you are finding time to reflect on and embrace what is most important: family, friends, colleagues and the relationships that sustain us.

Last week we held our national PBRN Conference in a virtual, online format where we shared our Colorado SNOCAP work during the COVID pandemic and we heard from the Larry Green Center's Becca Etz on their work. I was moved by the local and national evidence of the sacrifices we've made in Family Medicine practices to continue to serve our communities in the face of enormous odds.

Thank you for all you have done and continue to do. If you are looking for a way to connect during these times, I encourage you to consider signing up for the SNOCAP Balint group that is forming. Details are in this month's newsletter.

Stay safe and keep the faith,
Don

[CONTACT DR. NEASE](#)



COLORADO PRIMARY CARE RESPONSE: COVID-19 REPORT #7

What Colorado Primary Care Practices are experiencing with COVID-19



This report was compiled thanks to 65 responses received from the SNOCAP/Practice Innovation Program survey between July 17-27, 2020.

42% of respondents were from practices in a network or system. State-wide reach, with 61% urban/suburban & 39% rural/frontier respondents.

*NOTE: This report provides descriptive statistics across practices that responded to this survey (convenience sample). Data presented is not intended to be representative of what all urban or rural practices are facing state-wide.



Financial Toll

Practices are still sharing the financial tolls they are experiencing

- Overall: 75% of respondents shared COVID-19 is impacting the financial survival of their practice (n=65)
 - Urban and suburban practice, 83% report impacts
 - Rural/frontier practices, 50% report impacts
- A total of 5 practices share this month that they are at risk of temporary/permanent closure

61% of responding practices are still reducing working hours of their practice or staff

33% of responding practices are still experiencing salary cuts at any level

25% of responding practices, on average, are still experiencing layoffs and/or furloughs of providers, nursing and/or admin staff

Telehealth Continuation

Practices that are conducting telehealth visits at any level (n=65):
55% urban and suburban practices
100% rural/frontier practices

SNOCAP COVID-19 Response Update

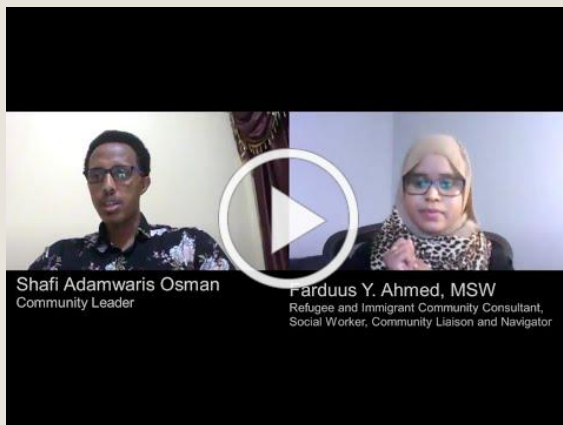
Thank you to our practice partners that have spent time over the past 5 months responding to surveys intended to gather information about how equipped practices are to addressing and respond to COVID-19.

Today, we launch our 8th survey, and encourage our practice partners to participate. Share what you're experiencing, learning, understanding. We continue to share the reports far and wide, and are currently working on a cumulative report from March through July to see how this pandemic has changed practice in big and small ways.

Until then, we are also sharing with you today the results of our 7th survey, data from July. You can find that by clicking the snapshot of the report, at left, as well as by clicking the "view all SNOCAP reports" link below.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE SNOCAP COVID-19 RESPONSE SURVEY #8](#)

[CLICK HERE TO VIEW ALL SNOCAP COVID-19 REPORTS](#)



Do you or anyone you know need COVID-19 information in the Somali language? Watch and share this video!

Thanks to Fardus Y. Ahmed, MSW (Refugee and Immigrant Community Consultant, Social Worker, Community Liaison and Navigator) and Shafi Adamwaris Osman (Community Leader) for creating this Q&A video!

STUDY UPDATES & REQUESTS

Home vs Office for Medication Enhanced Recovery (HOMER)

HOMER is a new national study comparing office-based (observed) and home induction (unobserved) methods for medication assisted treatment (MAT) in patients with opioid use disorder (OUD). Synchronous telehealth is third possible method under consideration for this study.

The HOMER study is a partnership between the State Network of Colorado Ambulatory Practices and Partners (SNOCAP) and the American Academy of Family Physicians National Research Network.

We are conducting this study to better understand if one induction method works better and to determine if certain patient and practice characteristics make patients better candidates for one method over the other. Results will help fill a gap in the evidence around effectively treating OUD with MAT in primary care settings.

HOMER will work with 100 primary care practices across the country. Please let us know if you are interested!

Participants will be patients

- Identified by their primary care team as having OUD and opting to receive MAT with buprenorphine.
- Randomized to begin treatment with either an office (observed) or home (unobserved) induction (or possibly a synchronous telehealth option).
- Enrolled beginning in March 2021.



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[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)

[CLICK HERE TO CONTACT LINDA ZITTELMAN](#)

No-Cost MAT Waiver Training

Stipends for Training end 9/30/2020!

No-cost training for prescribers to complete “X waiver” training to prescribe MAT is available through Practice Innovation Program Colorado. There are limited number of stipends available on a first come, first served basis through September 30, 2020. We do not anticipate a renewal of these funds so this may be the last chance to receive a stipend for this important training!

- \$500 for MDs and DOs (8 hours of training required)
- \$1000 for NPs, PAs, CNMs, CNAs (24 hours of training required)
- For details regarding stipends and waiver trainings, consult the website: www.practiceinnovationco.org/opioids/providers

[CLICK HERE TO LEARN MORE](#)



Help us understand how to improve care for patients with diabetes

Clinicians (including Physicians, Residents, Nurse Practitioners, and Physician Assistants) in primary care practices are invited to take part in a study about barriers and facilitators to the use of continuous glucose monitoring (or “CGM”) for primary care patients with diabetes. The first 240 clinicians who complete this 10-minute survey will receive a \$50 gift card for participation. This study is being conducted by clinician researchers at the University of Colorado Department of Family Medicine in collaboration with SNOCAP.

[CLICK HERE TO TAKE THE SURVEY](#)

[CONTACT PROJECT MANAGER](#)



SNOCAP Balint Groups:

Ever have that patient that you keep thinking about after clinic? Maybe you feel “stuck” with these patients and visits may leave you feeling frustrated, annoyed or just unsettled in some way?

One way to better understand these challenging situations and reduce the



What is the role of the Medicare Annual Wellness Visit in delivering care to older adults?

Colorado-based primary care providers (including physicians, residents, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants) are invited to take part in an interview study about Medicare Annual Wellness Visit adoption and outcomes. Flexible scheduling is available for the 1-hour phone interview. This research is being conducted as part of a doctoral dissertation at the Colorado School of Public Health. Interested providers should contact the Principal Investigator, Mika Hamer.

[CONTACT MIKA HAMER](#)



Help for Practices

These are difficult times with practices experiencing up to a 50-60% decrease in patient volume. Some practices have been sold, closed, or might close in the coming weeks. We are all struggling.

Over the past few months, SNOCAP Practice-Based Research Networks, the Practice Innovation Program, and other partners have been fielding a survey and subsequent reports on

emotional burnout is to participate in an Balint group. Balint groups provide a supportive environment to rediscover the joy in medicine by allowing participants to focus on the relationship between the doctor and patient.

The use of Balint Groups in preventing burnout has a long history since their development in the 1950s. As a SNOCAP practice, Dr. Deborah Seymour and Dr. Alex Reed, faculty psychologists in the CU Department of Family Medicine, would like to invite you to sign up fo a virtual.

Groups will meet monthly and following the first three sessions, members will be asked to commit to regular attendance. For more on Balint Groups visit the American Balint Society: <https://americanbalintsociety.org>.

Please email Dr. Alex Reed if you have questions or would like to sign up. Thank you!

[EMAIL DR. ALEX REED](#)

how practices are dealing with the many changes COVID-19 is bringing. Through reviewing the [results of now six surveys](#), we know that many primary care practices in Colorado are struggling to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic.

There is hope and help available. ***Family Medicine United for Colorado*** is a collaborative between the [University of Colorado Department of Family Medicine \(DFM\)](#), the [Colorado Academy of Family Physicians \(CAFP\)](#), and the [Colorado Center for Primary Care Innovation](#). It was created and inspired by DFM's Frank deGruy to help family medicine practices survive COVID-19 and become stronger and better after the crisis.

We are reaching out to SNOCAP and Practice Innovation Program practices to try to connect any questions and needs that are still arising to answers and assistance. Need help with telemedicine implementation, billing, safety precautions or even systematic support to keep your doors open? Experts are available to help you at **no cost**. They have tools and resources to share, in addition to a free consultation. If you have an urgent question that needs an answer, you can tell us about it through the [Family Medicine United for Colorado "AnswerBank" form](#) and we'll do our best to connect you to answers or assistance as soon as possible.

[ANSWERBANK LINK](#)

SNOCAP SPOTLIGHT

Name and role:

Kelsey Fife, MPH, CHES
PEACHnet PRA

How long have you been with PEACHnet/SNOCAP?

I started on August 1 (technically August 3 since the 1st was a Saturday!!)

What did you do previously?

I worked for Mesa County Public Health as a Health Promotion Specialist on the Epidemiology team for over four years. I did

traditional health promotions work, including grant management, community collaboration, health education and communications plus data visualization projects. Most of my projects were related to behavioral health (e.g. suicide prevention, substance use prevention).

What will you be working on in your role?:

Currently, I am funded to assist with the HOMER project and PEACHnet COLAB project about food security. I'm still learning all the details.

What originally drew you to your role with PEACHnet/SNOCAP?:

I have had an interest in research and evaluation since graduate school. I am also excited about the opportunity to connect with partners from outside of Mesa County.

What do you think you'll most enjoy with this new role?:

I am looking forward to learning new skills and meeting and working with new people. Though I will miss some parts of going into the office, I do enjoy working from home.

What has been one of your main successes, proudest moments, or biggest "aha!"s recently?:

Going through the job application process, I realized just how much I have grown as a professional since the last time I was job searching at the end of graduate school 4+ years ago.

What is one thing everyone reading should know about you?:

I live in Grand Junction with my fiancé and our dog. We try to get outdoors to hike and camp as much as possible, especially in the summer when it's horribly hot in GJ.



~~Welcome, Kelsey! We are so excited to have you on board and look forward to meeting you virtually soon (and hopefully in-person, as well!!!)~~

MONTHLY MEETING

SNOCAP Monthly Meetings are a way to connect with practices and providers across the state. We use this opportunity to showcase current and upcoming work, as well as to discuss potential work and partnerships with other researchers.

NEXT MEETING: TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1ST, 12:00-1:30PM VIA ZOOM

Join from PC, Mac, Linux, iOS or Android: <https://ucdenver.zoom.us/j/94096983934?pwd=dUxYUkZZNTA4OU11N2puMGRDaWVYdz09>

Password: 466008

Or iPhone one-tap (US Toll): +16699006833,,469856135#

Or Telephone: Dial: 1 669 900 6833 (US Toll), Meeting ID: 469 856 135

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Family Medicine

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