



**BUP VISN 19 PROVIDERS SURVEY REPORT**

**Recent Barriers, Facilitators, and Incentives to Buprenorphine Prescribing in the Veterans Health Administration Mountain West Region**

Eighty-eight buprenorphine prescribers in VISN19 were emailed an open-ended response questionnaire on June 10, 2020, to assess barriers, facilitators, incentives, and pandemic-related changes to buprenorphine prescribing and clinical care. Fourteen email addresses were undeliverable, one additional email address was incorrect for the intended recipient. Among the remaining 73 prescribers who received an email questionnaire, 23 responded (response rate = 31.5%).

Among respondents, a majority (52%) believed that free waiver trainings and CME credit would NOT be likely to increase certified buprenorphine prescribers within VISN19.

Barriers, facilitators, and incentives to prescribing buprenorphine reported by VA buprenorphine prescribers in VISN19.

Barriers	n	%
Time constraints/inflexible schedule	12	52%
Inadequate staffing and support	12	52%
Lack of patient treatment, testing & education resources	5	21%
Lack of incentives	2	9%
Difficult patients	2	9%
Inappropriate referrals	2	9%
Lack of training	1	4%

Facilitators	n	%
Professional satisfaction/gratification	17	77%
Support from leadership and co-workers	12	52%
Confidence in treatment effectiveness	7	30%
Incentives	1	4%
Interest in developing new skills	1	4%
Panel size controls	1	4%

**SCOUTT VIRTUAL CONFERENCE 2020**

The Office of Mental Health and Suicide Prevention (OMHSP) has transitioned the planned regional Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder Train the Trainer (SCOUTT) conferences to a **Virtual Conference**

- This conference will help **facilitate further expansion of medication for opioid use disorder** within general mental health, primary care, and pain management clinics and allow for continued collaboration between SCOUTT teams in their respective VISNs
- The SCOUTT Virtual Conference will take place September 21-24, 2020. **Tentative times:**
  - **Monday**                      **September 21**                      **12:30 – 5:00 pm EDT**
  - **Tuesday**                      **September 22<sup>nd</sup>**                      **12:30 – 4:15 pm EDT**
  - **Wednesday**                      **September 23<sup>rd</sup>**                      **TBD – 2 hour VISN Breakout**
  - **Thursday**                      **September 24<sup>th</sup>**                      **12:30 – 4:30 pm EDT**
- Target participants for this planned virtual conference include the original **18 pilot SCOUTT teams** and **representatives from at least 1 newly identified team from a different FACILITY** from the VISN.
  - New Teams should be identified from General Mental Health, Primary Care, or Pain Clinics
- Preconference trainings will be offered in August and September (introductory webinars)
- SUD conference:
  - A virtual half-day meeting will be held for the SUD program managers and VISN SUD leads in August

**PUBLICATION**

Gordon AJ, Drexler K, Hawkins EJ, et al. Stepped Care for Opioid Use Disorder Train the Trainer (SCOUTT) initiative: Expanding access to medication treatment for opioid use disorder within Veterans Health Administration facilities. Subst Abus. 2020;41(3):275-282. doi:10.1080/08897077.2020.1787299

**VISN 19 COVID RESOURCES**

VISN 19 COVID RESOURCES:

<https://dvagov.sharepoint.com/sites/VHAV19/SitePages/VISN19%20COVID-19%20Communications.aspx>

For resources, guidances, past newsletters and presentations, visit our VIP SharePoint site: [www.tinyurl.com/vip-initiative](http://www.tinyurl.com/vip-initiative)