



"Research & Training to Improve Clinical Care"

Principal Investigator: Joseph Merrill, MD, MPH

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Short Name: Suboxone Treatment for Opioid Dependent Patients with Soft Tissue Infection

Date: 2007 Grant Award Recipient

Sponsor: CHAMMP Small Grants Program

Abstract:

The availability of buprenorphine, a new medication for opioid dependence treatment, allows improved integration of medical and addiction services. In response, HMC has funded the Harborview Outpatient Suboxone Treatment (HOST) Program. We propose to evaluate patients enrolled in the HOST Program after hospitalization with injection drug use-related soft tissue infection, a major complication of opioid dependence and a major cost for HMC. We will prospectively follow 25 patients and assess 1) the feasibility of recruiting, enrolling and treating this new population, 2) the preliminary efficacy of HOST treatment, including retention rates, urine toxicology results, and addiction severity, and 3) the health services effects of HOST, both in comparison with HOST patients' previous HMC service utilization and with a historical cohort. These data will provide pilot data for a trial of HOST Program treatment that can target both addiction and medical outcomes for a population with substantial medical co-morbidity and costs.

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