

'COVID-19 National Emergency Response' Webinar Series

MOUD Treatment Within the Primary Care Safety Net During the COVID-19 Pandemic

May 7, 2020

Webinar Questions and Answers

Disclaimer: We have asked our webinar panelists to address questions from the webinar and are providing responses below, to the best of our current knowledge, given the rapidly evolving circumstances. These answers are informational in nature and are not intended as legal or medical advice.

QUESTIONS:

- 1. Could you please describe in more detail the type of incentivizing for both methadone as well as buprenorphine to which you are referring? I'm in California and not aware of any incentives for MAT. Thank you**

In New York patients on methadone get a monthly metro card a value of \$127.00 to cover their transportation to the methadone clinic, there are no incentives for suboxone, and this is something we are seeking to provide since some patients opt to stay on methadone just to continue receiving the monthly metro card.

- 2. Have any of you tried remote urine or oral swab testing? I work for a lab that offers this and I know some other labs have some options for this as well. For our lab, a kit is mailed to the patient and can be coordinated with a tele visit. Our kit has a prepaid package for sending the specimen to the lab.**

MAHEC is aware of other practices that use these drug testing modalities, but have not used them in my clinical practice, nor am I familiar with the research behind them. But anecdotally, colleagues have said that they have been useful in the COVID-19 context. Like all drug testing, interpretation of results depends on clinical context and possibilities for manipulation, and false positives/negatives.

- 3. COVID has laid bare serious racial and ethnic disparities; what NEW is HRSA doing in relation to decreasing these disparities?**

HRSA has implemented the [Health Center COVID-19 Survey](#) to help track health center capacity and the impact of COVID-19 on health center operations, patients, and staff; and better understand training and technical assistance, funding, and other health center resource needs. The survey collects patient data by race/ethnicity for COVID-19 tests conducted during the last reporting week.

The National Association of Community Health Centers (NACHC), a HRSA-supported National Cooperative Agreement (NCA) grantee, maintains an online repository with up-to-date training and technical assistance resources produced by federal and non-federal entities. The [Health](#)

[Center Resource Clearinghouse](#) is a centralized hub populated with materials developed by all HRSA-funded NCA entities, national organizations, and government agencies on [emerging issues](#) including COVID-19. Health centers, PCAs, and other entities can also visit the Clearinghouse for upcoming events and webinars on COVID-19.

COMMENTS/RESOURCES:

1. Link to the DLT resource: <https://www.rd.usda.gov/programs-services/distance-learning-telemedicine-grants>
2. Information: For rural communities, USDA DLT program is currently open and it offers grants to acquire phones iPad and telemedicine equipment.