

An Update on Substance Use Disorder Services in VHA

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Topics to be Covered

- Requirements for SUD services under the Uniform Mental Health Services Handbook
- Recent SUD initiatives
- Future SUD activities

Uniform Mental Health Services Handbook Specifications on Treatment of SUD

Screening and Assessment

- Universal screening for alcohol misuse in new patient encounters according to presenting problem and at least once a year
- Targeted screening for other substance-related problems
- Follow-up for positive screens with a multidimensional evaluation if substance use disorder has been diagnosed

Interventions (1)

- Emergency department services that include provisions for 23 hour observation
- Medically managed withdrawal--Inpatient and ambulatory
- Brief interventions in primary care or general mental health
- Intensive outpatient services and/or residential care substance use services
- Dual diagnosis programs or coordination of mental health and substance use disorder care

Interventions (2)

- Evidence-based psychosocial interventions to prevent relapse
 - Multiple (at least two) empirically-validated psychosocial interventions must be available for all patients with substance use disorders who need them.
 - Empirically-validated interventions include motivational enhancement therapy, cognitive behavioral therapy for relapse prevention, 12-step facilitation counseling, contingency management, and SUD-focused behavioral couples counseling or family therapy.
- Opiate agonist treatment (methadone and/or buprenorphine)
- Evidence-based pharmacotherapy for alcohol dependence

Interventions (3)

- Long term monitoring and maintenance treatment
- Interim services to address the needs of patients waiting for specific programs
- Active follow-up for those who refuse referral to SUD services

Recent Initiatives Related to Treatment of Substance Use Disorders

Initiatives Related to SUD Treatment

- Annual screening for at-risk levels of alcohol consumption in primary and specialty health care services.
- Increase availability of medications to assist SUD recovery.
- Enhance access to care for veterans with substance use problems.
- Enhance services for substance use disorders in CBOCs and non-SA RRTPs.

Initiatives Related to SUD Treatment

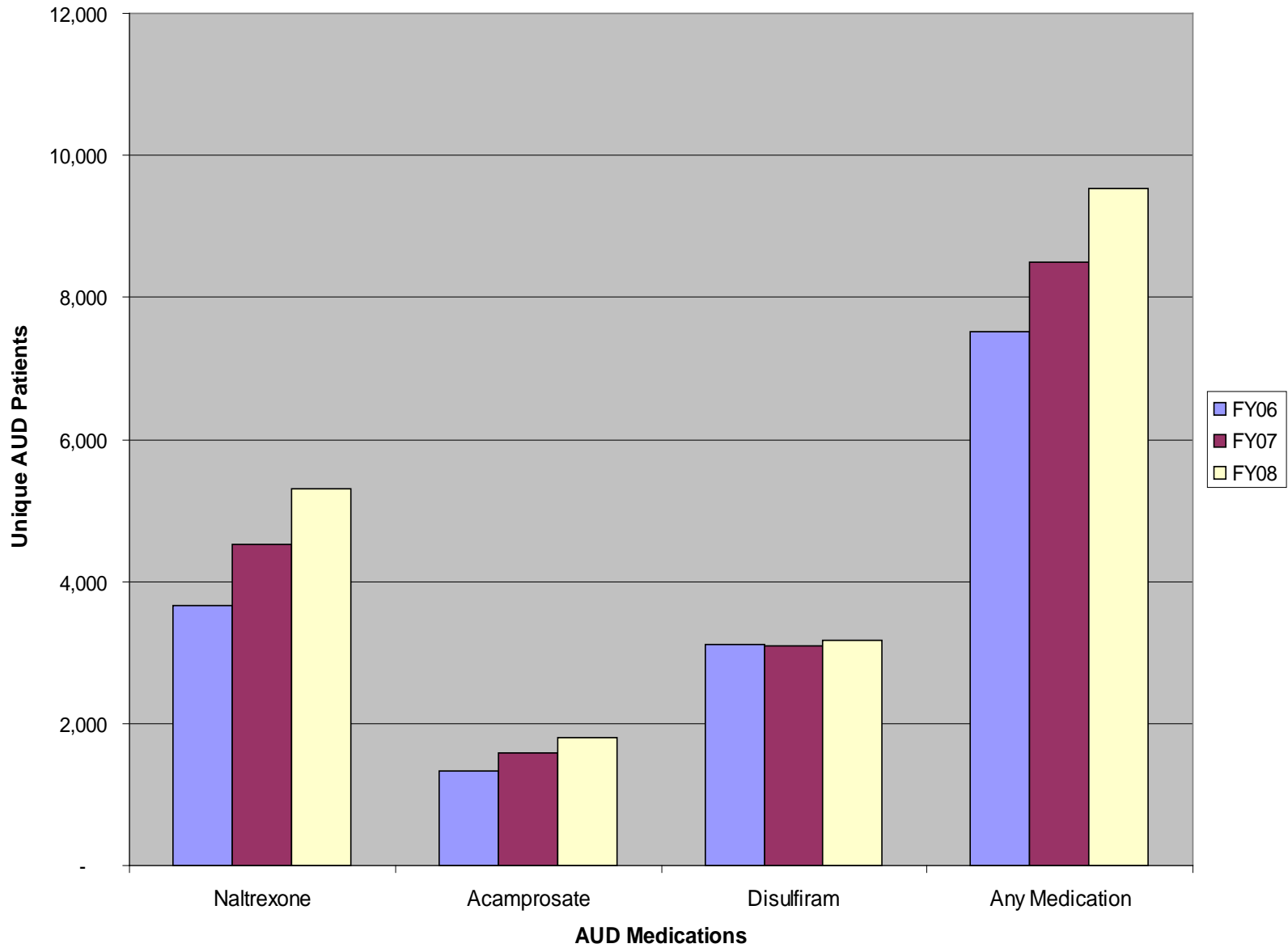
- Augment PTSD teams with SUD specialists.
- Increase availability of intensive outpatient programs for SUD.
- Memorandum on requirements of inpatient and ambulatory detoxification
- Develop handbook on treatment of SUD.
- Update VA-DoD Clinical Practice Guidelines.

Recent Enhancements to SUD Treatment Services

	<u>No.</u>	<u>FY 09 (est.)</u>
Creation of SUD IOP's	28	\$16,720,000
Addition of SUD Specialist to PTSD Teams	133	\$16,300,000
Addition of SUD Specialist to Large Community Based Outpatient Clinics	47	\$5,610,000
Addition of SUD Specialist to Non-SA RRTP's	33	\$3,700,000
Total		\$43,630,000

Use of Medications to Assist SUD Recovery

Utilization of Medication for Alcohol Use Disorder (AUD)



Utilization of Medications for Alcohol Use Disorder

	Uniques	Any Rx
No SUD spec care	190,974	1.21%
Outpt only SUD care	82,843	6.40%
Both Outpt and RRTP	7,240	11.62%



Methadone and Buprenorphine

- As of the end of FY08, methadone maintenance treatment was offered at 35 VA points of service and 6 contracted sites.
- In FY08, 9320 unique patients were treated in these licensed methadone maintenance clinics.
- During FY08, between 35.7 and 40.2% of unique VA outpatients diagnosed with opioid abuse or dependence were treated with methadone or buprenorphine.

Future Plans

- Contingency management demonstration project
- Implement Brief Addiction Measure (BAM)
- Assess value-added of non-oxidative metabolites of alcohol to detect drinking
- Develop transformational and performance metrics for delivery of SUD services
- Select Deputy
- Expert panel meeting on SUD-PTSD care
- SUD preconference to OMHS annual conference
- Meeting with SUD VISN representatives and SUD program managers