



Evidence-Based Treatment for Opiate-Dependent Patients: Availability, Variation, and Organizational Correlates

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The majority of opiate-dependent patients entering substance abuse treatment are referred to “drug-free” (non-methadone) modalities. Given the known challenges of treating these patients in drug-free settings relative to the documented effectiveness of methadone maintenance, these analyses investigate the availability of various clinical and wraparound services for this population among a U.S. sample of addiction treatment programs with and without methadone maintenance services (N=763). Face-to-face interviews conducted in 2002-2003 gathered data on the number of opiate-dependent clients treated; organizational characteristics, including size, ownership, accreditation, and staffing; treatment practices, including methadone availability, use of other pharmacotherapies, and levels of care; and services offered, including vouchers, transportation, and other wraparound services. Facilities treating proportionately more opiate-dependent patients were significantly more likely to offer a variety of evidence-based services, regardless of methadone availability. Implications for referral linkages and quality of care are discussed.