Organizational Predictors of Pharmacological Innovation Adoption: The Case of Disulfiram

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The research-to-practice gap in substance abuse treatment, particularly with regard to pharmacological innovations, necessitates the consideration of organizational characteristics that facilitate the adoption of innovation. Using data from a nationally representative sample of 394 privately funded substance abuse treatment centers, this study examines variation in the adoption of disulfiram in terms of organizational structure, workforce professionalism, and treatment philosophy. Logistic regression results indicated that hospital-based centers were significantly more likely to use disulfiram than freestanding treatment programs. In addition, the percentage of counselors with Master’s degrees and the percentage of certified/licensed counselors were positively associated with the likelihood of disulfiram utilization. Treatment centers that emphasized confrontational group therapy and spirituality were less likely to use disulfiram, while the adoption of disulfiram was more likely in centers that emphasized a medical model of addiction.