

Health Innovation Network

Transfers of Value Disclosure: Health Innovation North West Coast / Camurus. Opioid Substitution Therapy in Primary Care. Community Treatment Pathway Evaluation

(Health Innovation North West Coast formerly known as 'Innovation Agency, the Academic Health Science Network for the North West Coast' until 30th September 2023)

Background

The identification and management of opioid analgesic dependency (OAD) is challenging and relapse remains common. As with Opioid Dependency more generally, Opioid Agonist Therapy (OAT) may be part of a comprehensive programme that includes medical, social and psychological treatment. OAT replaces the opioid of dependence (illicit or prescribed) with one that provides stable dosing, affording an opportunity to engage with other aspects of recovery.

In line with the set-up of Integrated Care Systems, policy and governance frameworks are emerging outside of traditional healthcare boundaries and there is greater acceptance of, and need for, real world evaluations to inform strategic recommendations and decision-making, especially when efficiencies may be realised across different parts of the health and social care system.

Health Innovation North West Coast propose to lead a real world service evaluation that will explore both the implementation barriers and facilitators and the impact of introducing opioid substitution therapy in primary care and the resulting pathway changes.

Real World Evaluation Approach

The opioid substitution therapy will be deployed into a complex real world setting with multiple external influences. Thus, theory-based real world evaluation methods are more appropriate than an experimental study design. Theory-based evaluation is explicitly concerned with both the extent of the change and why the change occurs.

We will work with Lancs and South Cumbria ICS medicines management team, Fleetwood PCN and local addiction services to co-design a new community pathway to help address OAD through identification of people at risk of OAD and provide the Additional Roles and Responsibilities Staff (ARRS) team with resources to support this 'at risk' cohort.

We will co-design the evaluation of the new pathway, starting with a robust theory of Change with ICB and NHS partners to ensure we capture metrics that demonstrate the effectiveness (or otherwise) of the new pathway.

The goal is to improve outcomes for patients with opioid analgesia dependence, including a reduction in opioid use and prescription for chronic non-cancer pain.

Disclosure

Organisations involved	Health Innovation North West Coast - hosted by Liverpool Heart and Chest Foundation Trust Camurus
In-kind benefit or value received	Collaborative Agreement to the value of £65,595 exclusive of VAT in financial contribution to Health Innovation North West Coast. Benefitting Health Innovation North West Coast
Dates covered	March 2024 – June 2025
Summary of in-kind benefit or value received (one sentence)	This collaborative agreement supports the project to evaluate opioid substitution therapy in primary care and the resulting pathway changes
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