

ED plays critical role in caring for patients with opioid use disorder

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emergency department providers should use the prescription drug monitoring program when prescribing opioids. For symptomatic patients with acute opioid withdrawal, medication-assisted therapy and follow-up should be considered for all patients, with initiation of treatment in the emergency department. Finally, systems of care are needed to facilitate the transition of [patients](#) to follow-up care in the community setting.

"A robust infrastructure to support, educate, and enable emergency physicians to manage opioid use disorder in an evidence-based fashion and rapidly transition care to outpatient services is a necessary step in turning the tide against an [opioid epidemic](#) affecting communities nationwide," the authors write.

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(HealthDay)—Emergency department providers need evidence-based strategies to identify and manage patients with opioid use disorder, according to a review published in the *Annals of Emergency Medicine*.

Herbert C. Duber, M.D., M.P.H., from the University of Washington in Seattle, and colleagues examined current strategies for identifying patients with [opioid](#) use disorder, the treatment of patients with acute opioid withdrawal syndrome, approaches to medication-assisted therapy, and the transition of patients with opioid use disorder from the [emergency department](#) to outpatient services.

Based on the review of the literature, the researchers recommend targeted screening of at-risk individuals using the Revised Screener and Opioid Assessment for Patients With Pain or the National Institute on Drug Abuse-modified Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test in the emergency department. Additionally,

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