

The University of Pittsburgh Medical Center (UPMC) is a 23-hospital health system that serves communities around Western Pennsylvania and beyond. In 2017, there were 767 reported opioid overdose deaths in our county alone, and 5,456 overdose deaths across the state of Pennsylvania, which has the third-highest overdose rate in the nation. At UPMC we are tackling the opioid epidemic on a number of fronts. We have created new services for patients, both for those who are hospitalized and for outpatients. We also aim to create new educational opportunities to prepare the next generation of physicians and other healthcare practitioners to provide high-quality care for individuals with substance use disorders and co-occurring psychiatric disorders, as well new quality metrics to improve physician prescribing opioids. Some of our areas of focus are detailed below:

- Develop new educational efforts in prevention and treatment of substance use disorders through continuing education to physicians and other clinicians
- Train physicians, other healthcare practitioners and medical trainees in motivational interviewing brief interventions, and Screening, Brief Interventions and Referral to Treatment approach (SBIRT)
- Support specialist training in addiction through existing physician fellowships in Addiction Psychiatry, Toxicology, and a planned Addiction Medicine fellowship
- Develop quality improvement initiatives to improve opioid prescribing amongst primary care providers, the emergency department, and specialist physicians
- Expand outpatient treatment options for opioid use disorders by increasing access to buprenorphine in primary care clinics and developing a bridge clinic to provide low-threshold treatment
- Provide a range of options for treatment of opioid use disorders, including methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone oral and extended release forms
- Provide comprehensive, holistic, and integrated care for special populations such as individuals with co-occurring psychiatric disorders and pregnant women
- Intervene in the care of hospitalized patients with substance use disorders through an Addiction Medicine Consultation Service that can start treatment for inpatients with acute illness related to opioid use, and link them with ongoing care
- Collaborate with the local Department of Health to monitor data on opioid overdoses around the region
- Use electronic health records to analyze patterns and quality of care in both pain management and opioid use disorder recognition and treatment
- Employ peer specialists/navigators to serve as recovery role models and engage with patients in clinical settings and the community

UPMC recognizes the importance of developing new models of care to combat the opioid epidemic and is excited to contribute to the National Academy of Medicine action collaborative on this issue.