



Rush University System for Health Commitment Statement

NAM Opioid Action Collaborative – April 2019

Rush University System for Health (RUSH) pledges to support the National Academy of Medicine's (NAM) Action Collaborative on Countering the U.S. Opioid Epidemic. RUSH is honored to be a part of this emerging collaborative and to join leading health care centers and institutions in deploying and developing evidence-based interventions to identify and treat individuals facing opioid misuse.

RUSH is using a three-fold strategy of clinical care, research and training to address the opioid epidemic.

Clinical Care and Systems-Level Interventions

In 2017, RUSH began screening all patients for substance and alcohol misuse who are admitted to Rush University Medical Center. Nearly 90% of patients are screened at present. Positive screens are then given a validated measure to confirm level of use and patients are given bedside brief motivational interviews and/or psychoeducation. Patients who have higher levels of use have consultations from an Addiction Medicine Consult Service, and patients with opioid misuse who meet medical criteria are started on Medication Assisted Treatment while in the hospital. In the first year, nearly 100 patients were initiated on Buprenorphine through this system of care. Patients are followed in an ambulatory discharge clinic until they are connected with their medical home or other treatment services. We commit to continue to expand clinical and screening programs across our health system to better identify and treat patients with opioid use and misuse.

Research and Innovation

As an academic institution, RUSH has placed research at the forefront of our work and emphasizes the development of knowledge to guide best practices. RUSH currently has a grant portfolio with support from the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Illinois Department of Human Services, and other government sources. Of high relevance to the Opioid Action Collaborative, RUSH has leading researchers working on community and digital interventions for substance misuse, the psychobiology of pain, PTSD and their treatment, and the intersection of substance misuse and HIV. As we develop new models of care and systems-based interventions we will continue to use our expertise to develop knowledge, track outcomes and examine the impact of our models on the lives of patients and their families.

Training and Education

In 2014, RUSH was awarded a Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) Medical Professional Training Program from SAMHSA. This launched a transformation of our training programs in medicine and nursing. Since that time, we have expanded our training portfolio to include a 1-year ACGME Addiction Medicine Fellowship and have also built an innovative post-waiver training fellowship for providers across Illinois. With support from the State of Illinois, we have used the later modality to support providers from areas with low treatment capacity to launch, expand and effectively use MAT. We pledge to continue to expand training and education opportunities to address the opioid crisis.