Hello everyone!

Thanks again for attending the latest COVID-19 call for OTPs. For those of you who couldn’t make it, a recording of the call is located here: https://register.gotowebinar.com/rt/7358921779059901195

I’ll discuss a few items from the call as well as other new items:

**Executive Order**
The executive order addressing some of the OTP OAC (as well as OAC from other state departments) should come out this week or early next week. One of the requirements will revise the amount of medication you keep in your safe from a 10 days’ supply to a 15 days’ supply. If you have a medication safe that is not large enough to store the medication, then you may be allowed to store it outside of the safe within your locked medication room upon DEA approval. The DEA has given instructions that you are to call your local field office for review and approval. Please let me know if you have any problems when this goes into effect.

**Naloxone**
Please remember to order naloxone for methadone patients from Mindy Vance (Mindy.Vance@mha.ohio.gov), and she will have it direct shipped to your organization. We’ve already had 2k naloxone units ordered, so keep up the good work. Please note that there are a few organizations that have not set up accounts with the office of pharmacy services. They will be reaching out to you to enroll you in the program upon order submission.

**Lock Boxes**
Patients receiving additional take homes may not have lock boxes that are large enough to store medication. A limited amount of SOR money is being made available to all organizations who have patients that may not be able to afford lock boxes. Kaitin (Kaitlin.Waggoner@mha.ohio.gov) will be reaching out to your organization’s program administrator (as listed on the Lighthouse document) to estimate need during this time. I cannot guarantee that your entire request will be fulfilled, but we will do the best that we can. All units will be direct shipped to your organization.

**Organizational Plans**
If you have not submitted an organizational plan to me, then please do so by Saturday the 4th. I would like to have all of them approved by the 7th, so you can start using the new guidelines ASAP. Utilizing these guidelines will be the best way to ensure that you decrease the overall foot traffic within the clinic, leading to a decreased chance of patient and staff infection. Under ordinary circumstances, I would give you much more time, but some of the recent modelling indicates COVID-19 may dramatically increase between mid- to late-April. Example plans are also attached to this email.

**Dual Enrollment**
It is possible that patients may try to take advantage of the pandemic and go to the clinic with the least restrictive take home policy. To this end, I would like to make sure that you 1) check the central registry once a day (whether or not you have a new admission) and 2) have all of the patient information updated and as accurate as possible. Pieter has developed a spreadsheet, so I can tell who is and who is not checking the registry on a daily basis. As always, you are required to verify the medication type, dose, and number of take homes within the patients possession (among other things) before you may dose the patient.
Lighthouse Central Registry
Pieter hosted a great session on emergency dosing today, and I anticipate the recording to be posted under “training session recordings” within the “training/documents/sample forms” central registry menu when he has the time. I have attached one of his training documents on the issue in case you haven’t yet seen it. I am giving him permission to allow multiple dosing hours to be displayed as well as allow clinic manager to review any old/new emergency closures.

SAMHSA FAQ Document
Please review the COVID-19 SAMHSA FAQ document for OTPs here: https://www.samhsa.gov/sites/default/files/faqs-for-oud-prescribing-and-dispensing.pdf Please note that there is an Ohio-specific nuance to the answer in item #12. If you would like to utilize a different practitioner for an exemption slot, then you must have SOTA approval. SAMHSA does not review state disciplinary actions as I do, and I want to ensure that your prescribing staff do not have any recent disciplinary activity, recurrent disciplinary activity, or something that has led them to be on lengthy probation.

Volunteers
I received notification from three OTPs that they are willing to assist other organizations during the pandemic if needed. I would like to add to that list before submitting it to you all, so please let me know if your organization would be willing to help!

Future Calls (Recommended attendance as the pandemic increases in mid- to late April):
April 3rd https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8089722078356483852
April 7th https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/3994661389448984332
April 10th https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/8798715763248814604
April 14th https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/3447851167211812876
April 17th https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/4687992531337694987
April 21st https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/7989115665037487371
April 24th https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/rt/165945297876388363

Thanks,

~Rick Massatti

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