

Kentucky Statewide Opioid Stewardship (KY SOS) October Newsletter

A Message from the KY SOS Team

KY SOS Virtual Conference

KY SOS Virtual Conference was a huge success! KY SOS had over 125 clinicians participate in the two-day virtual meeting. On the first day, **Mr. Joe Grossman** presented on Opioid Stewardship from a leadership perspective and **Dr. Roger Humphries** presented on the Emergency Department's evolving approach to opioid use disorder (OUD). On the second day, **Dr. Alex Elswick** presented on the epidemic within the pandemic and **Dr. Katrina Nickels** and **Dr. Stephanie Abel** presented on Opioid Stewardship in palliative care and end of life. All presentations can be found at <http://www.kentuckysos.com/Events-Education/Presentations-Recordings>.

Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE) Grant Opportunity

As part of the Kentucky Opioid Response Effort (KORE), the Department for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities (DBHDID) will award up to 12 Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) Treatment Access Expansion grants. Applications are due **November 13, 2020**. Please find the necessary documents using the link below: the Notice of Funding Opportunity announcement, which includes applicant instructions and eligibility, the budget template and planning guide and an attestation to access to FDA-Approved Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD).

Despite MOUD being the standard of care, many individuals in Kentucky have little to no access to evidence-based treatment. The purpose of the Treatment Access Expansion grants is to increase access to and utilization of the three FDA-approved medications, reduce unmet treatment need, provide assertive engagement with the most vulnerable populations, and reduce opioid-related overdose deaths. Treatment Access Expansion grants will support eligible agencies to implement or expand an evidence-based service delivery model using MOUD. Further, this unprecedented period during which the COVID-19 pandemic has collided with the opioid epidemic, individuals with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) have been severely impacted not only through a greater risk of contracting the virus and becoming ill, but in experiencing more difficulty accessing treatment, recovery and harm reduction services as well as social groups of support. This is particularly true for individuals in our communities who may be houseless, lack transportation and internet access to participate in virtual treatment and mutual aid platforms and for Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) who are experiencing increased risks due to systemic health and social inequities. Thus, priority will be given to applications presenting innovative solutions to serve populations most at risk and reduce health disparities in the context of COVID-19.

Please use this link to find the application materials located on the website:

<https://chfs.ky.gov/agencies/dbhdid/Pages/kore.aspx>

Please direct questions regarding proposals to: KORE@ky.gov

CMS Releases Short Guidance on MAT Drug Coverage

On October 1, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) issued an informal notice to states discussing the statutory requirement in the SUPPORT Act for states to cover MAT services and drugs. In the notice, CMS interprets the SUPPORT Act “to require that, as of October 1, 2020, states must include as part of the new MAT mandatory benefit all forms of drugs and biologicals that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved or licensed for MAT to treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).” CMS also notes that the CR signed into law yesterday clarifies that “MAT drugs when used for OUD as described under the mandatory benefit are deemed prescribed drugs, and covered outpatient drugs” and thus eligible for rebates under the Medicaid Drug Rebate Program. Lastly, CMS intends to issue additional guidance to states on other implementation issues around the mandatory MAT benefit.

Banners

Banners have been mailed to all hospitals. The KY SOS team would like to see pictures of your staff with your KY SOS banners. Please email photos to **Claire Arant** (carant@kyha.com). Taylor Regional Hospital shows their support of KY SOS.



Lapel Buttons

Lapel buttons are still available. If you would like more SOS buttons for your staff, please reach out to **Claire Arant** (carant@kyha.com).



DEA National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, October 24, 2020

Please see link to access the DEA Take Back website. <https://takebackday.dea.gov/>

Feel free to use educational pamphlets, posters and PSA videos from this website to promote this important event in your community. KY SOS encourages you to include proper prescription drug disposal in your discharge paperwork and in your discharge counseling to patients. Be sure to tell them about this DEA Take Back Day on October 24. You will be able to find a collection site near you by using the above link. Scroll down to “Collection Site Locator” and type in your zip code to find a local collection site.

It is imperative that our patients dispose of their unwanted, unused and outdated medications. Getting rid of these medications can reduce the risk of duplicate therapies, reduce potential drug-drug interactions, while reducing confusion about therapy changes for our patients. Plus, disposing of unused narcotic medications can help reduce the diversion we are seeing across the state.

Don’t forget that the Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy (ODCP) website provides prescription drug disposal locations available throughout the year. You can access the ODCP website by the following link. Just search by your county name and find the location(s) in your community. <https://odcp.ky.gov/Pages/Prescription-Drug-Disposal-Locations.aspx>

Do your part, Kentucky, to promote this national DEA event and proper prescription drug disposal in your community!

Hospital Highlight

UK HealthCare is broadening its policies and procedures to optimize the use of intravenous (IV) ketamine to improve analgesia and decrease reliance on opioids. The new process will allow subanesthetic IV ketamine to be administered via short infusion in any acute care area, slow IV

push in the ED and critical care areas, and PCA when recommended/ followed by the pain or palliative care services.

Subanesthetic ketamine is useful as an individual analgesic and is an important tool in multimodal analgesia. It can be safe and effective in opioid naïve and tolerant patients as well as acute and chronic pain syndromes. Conditions or circumstances in which ketamine for analgesia in the acute care setting may be of particular benefit include 1) surgery in which the postoperative pain is expected to be severe (e.g. various abdominal, thoracic, orthopedic procedures), 2) opioid tolerant patients with acute pain, 3) patients at higher risk of opioid-related respiratory depression (e.g. obstructive sleep apnea or similar comorbidities), and 4) other diverse conditions resulting in significant pain, such as wound or burn dressing changes, sickle cell crises, renal colic, and trauma.

While subanesthetic ketamine is generally well tolerated, it should be used with caution or avoided in patients with poorly controlled cardiovascular disease, severe hepatic dysfunction, a history of psychosis, elevated intracranial or intraocular pressure, and those who are pregnant. The most common adverse effects of subanesthetic ketamine for analgesia include nausea, vomiting, and vivid dreams or hallucinations.

If you would like to reach out to UKHC for more information, please contact their Opioid Stewardship Program Coordinator, Stephanie Abel, via email at stephanie.abel@uky.edu.

Data Update

KY SOS continues to encourage all facilities to submit their monthly data into KY Quality Counts (KQC). As the COVID-19 pandemic continues, KY SOS understands resources are stretched and data entry might be delayed. Please continue to report **monthly** data on both the process and outcomes measures. Education and the future of the program are based in part on the data reported. Areas of improvement and areas of success will be highlighted and emphasized as KY SOS continues. If you need assistance with data input or navigation of the KQC data collection system, please contact **Emily Henderson** (ehenderson@kyha.com) or **Melanie Moch** (mmoch@kyha.com).

The Happenings

Upcoming Events/Webinar

- KY SOS Behavioral Health webinar series will host its second webinar (in the 4 part series) on October 28, 11:00 – 12:00 PM ET. **Dr. Teresa Koeller and Dr. Mike Kalfas**, St. Elizabeth Healthcare, will present on SUD assessments and screening tools, entitled **A Brief Overview of Opioid Use Disorder and the St. Elizabeth Healthcare Response**. **Webinar information:** <https://join.onstreammedia.com/go/41054140/behavioralpart2>
Password: KYSOS
Conference line: 1-877-594-8353

Participant Code: 56350822 #

Calendar invites will be sent out for this webinar soon. Please contact Emily Henderson if you have questions (ehenderson@kyha.com).

- KY SOS Behavioral Health webinar series will continue with parts 3 and 4, to be scheduled in the coming months.

For more information, please visit www.kentuckysos.com or contact a KHA staff member to assist.

Emily Henderson for program and pharmacy-related questions– ehenderson@kyha.com

Melanie Moch for data-related questions – mmoch@kyha.com

Claire Arant for administrative assistance – carant@kyha.com

Missed a webinar? All presentations are recorded and can be found under the events & education link.