



# The Next Step in Expanding Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder?

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## HOW IT WORKS

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## CURRENT SELECTION

Zittleman L, Curcija K, Nease DE, et al. Increasing capacity for treatment of opioid use disorder in rural primary care practices. *Ann Fam Med*. 2022;20(1):18-23.

### Discussion Tips

Opioid use disorder is an under-treated condition. Primary care offers a platform to expand treatment far beyond current utilization, but previous efforts to expand prescribing through increasing buprenorphine waivers has not optimized the system for a variety of other reasons.<sup>2,3</sup> Given this context, the authors of this study attempted to implement and evaluate a more complex intervention in hopes of increasing the utilization of buprenorphine.

### Discussion Questions

- What question is asked by this study and why does it matter?
- How does this study advance beyond previous research and clinical practice on this topic?
- How strong is the study design for answering the question?
- What is a multi-level model? Are these statistical models

common in primary care research? Why is it important that the authors used this type of model in this study?

- To what degree can the findings be accounted for by:
  - How clinics were selected, excluded, or lost to follow-up?
  - How the main variables were measured?
  - What the intervention group was compared to?
  - Confounding (false attribution of causality because 2 variables discovered to be associated actually are associated with a 3rd factor)?
  - Chance?
  - How missing data were dealt with in the study? Why is missing data important to consider?
  - How the findings were interpreted?
- What are the main study findings?
- How comparable is the study sample to similar patients in your practice or region? What is your judgment about the transportability of the findings?
- What contextual factors are important for interpreting the findings?
- How might this study change your practice? Policy? Education? Research?
- Who are the constituencies for the findings, and how might they be engaged in interpreting or using the findings?
- What are the next steps in interpreting or applying the findings?
- What researchable questions remain?

## References

1. Stange KC, Miller WL, McLellan LA, et al. *Annals Journal Club: it's time to get RADICAL*. *Ann Fam Med*. 2006;4(3):196-197. <https://AnnFamMed.org/cgi/content/full/4/3/196>
2. Stein BD, Sorbero M, Dick AW, Pacula RL, Burns RM, Gordon AJ. Physician capacity to treat opioid use disorder with buprenorphine-assisted treatment. *JAMA*. 2016;316(11):1211-1212. 10.1001/jama.2016.10542
3. Andrilla CHA, Coulthard C, Larson EH. Barriers rural physicians face prescribing buprenorphine for opioid use disorder. *Ann Fam Med*. 2017;15(4):359-362. 10.1370/afm.2099