Standardization of Implementation Methods for a Large-Scale Implementation Trial of Medication for Veterans Living with Opioid Use Disorder

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Consortium to Disseminate & Understand Implementation of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment (CONDUIT; PII 19-321)
Who am I?

- Clinical/health research psychologist
- Funded implementation science investigator in Veterans Health Administration since 2011
- Content areas: improving safe and effective treatment of chronic pain and opioid use disorder, and prevention of opioid overdose
- VA Palo Alto Health Care System, Stanford University School of Medicine
Background & Purpose

CONDUIT (Consortium to Disseminate and Understand Implementation of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment)

- Increase access to evidence-based treatment for Veterans living with OUD or chronic pain at nearly 50 low-performing sites across a variety of clinical care settings
  - Primary Care
  - Specialty Care
  - Telehealth
  - Inpatient / Emergency
CONDUIT Structure

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CONDUIT Structure
CONDUIT Implementation Core 
Structure & Objectives

- Main Objectives
  - Standardize measurement of implementation activities across the consortium
  - Assist all 6 projects in their implementation efforts by providing expertise and advice, training, and resources

- IC activities are guided by the Consolidated Framework for Implementation Research (CFIR) & RE-AIM
CONDUIT Implementation Core
Timeline with Implementation Activities

- Initial Project-Based Needs Assessment
- Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) Survey
- Implementation Facilitation (IF) Logs
- Periodic Reflections
- Ad Hoc Implementation Core Activities
CONDUIT Implementation Core
Timeline with Implementation Activities

Initial Project-Based Needs Assessment

FREQUENCY: Once, at project initiation
PURPOSE: Tailor assistance from Implementation Core to each project’s unique needs
EXPERT: Implementation Core lead with experience in tailoring
  - Project personnel completed a Needs Assessment worksheet and reviewed with Implementation Core lead
  - Outcomes were used to tailor Implementation Core training, support, and resources provided to project personnel

Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) Survey

Pre-Implementation Phase
Implementation Phase
Maintenance Phase

Implementation Facilitation (IF) Logs
Periodic Reflections

Ad Hoc Implementation Core Activities
CONDUIT Implementation Core
Timeline with Implementation Activities

PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
- Initial Project-Based Needs Assessment

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE
- Implementation Facilitation (IF) Logs
- Periodic Reflections

MAINTENANCE PHASE
- Ad Hoc Implementation Core Activities

Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) Survey
FREQUENCY: Once per fiscal year
PURPOSE: Comprehensively evaluate MOUD implementation strategies used due to intervention versus other quality improvement efforts
EXPERT: Investigator who is an expert in administering and analyzing results from the ERIC survey across evidence-based practices
- Survey is sent to targeted site leaders and knowledgeable points-of-contact on MOUD at each site
- Results from surveys are presented to investigators in annual reports
CONDUIT Implementation Core
Timeline with Implementation Activities

Initial Project-Based Needs Assessment

PRE-IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

MAINTENANCE PHASE

Implementation Facilitation (IF) Logs

FREQUENCY: Monthly
PURPOSE: Capture IF activities for implementation and cost analyses
EXPERTS: 2 Implementation Scientists and support staff
- Internal and External Facilitators trained in IF tracking for each project team
- REDCap-based logs emailed to Internal & External Facilitators monthly
- Quarterly reports that summarize IF activities provided to Facilitators & project teams

Ad Hoc Implementation Core Activities

Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) Survey

Periodic Reflections
CONDUIT Implementation Core
Timeline with Implementation Activities

Pre-Implementation Phase:
- Initial Project-Based Needs Assessment

Implementation Phase:
- Expert Recommendations for Implementing Change (ERIC) Survey
- Implementation Facilitation (IF) Logs
- Periodic Reflections
  - Frequency: Monthly
  - Purpose: Capture IF team reflections on implementation activities
  - Expert: Investigator with qualitative expertise and experience in facilitating group interviews
    - Semi-structured interviews with IF team members to identify adaptations, IF experiences, lessons learned
    - Session notes taken by second qualitative expert and calls recorded for analyses
    - Based on methodology outlined by Finley et al. (2018)

Maintenance Phase:
- Ad Hoc Implementation Core Activities
CONDUIT Implementation Core
Timeline with Implementation Activities

- **IMPLEMENTATION CORE MEETINGS**: Bi-monthly meetings with all project teams, ad hoc meetings with individual project teams
- **QUALITATIVE SUPPORT**: Qualitative expert provides guidance on methods, analysis when requested
- **IF TRAINING**: Provided by VA’s IF Training Hub, with boosters from Implementation Core Lead
- **BARRIER RESOLUTION**: Consultative barrier assessment and resolution support are provided by Implementation Core personnel in a tailored, rapid, and responsive fashion
Veteran Engagement

- Opioid Addiction and Recovery Veteran Engagement Board (OAR-VEB)
- Diverse perspectives of 13 Veterans with lived experience of OUD
  - 2 women and 11 men from different service eras
  - Time in recovery ranges from 1-3 years up to 13+ years
- Video series - Insights Into Recovery
Conclusions

- Implementation Core (IC) standardized measures across diverse teams and clinical settings, staying flexible during COVID pandemic to support teams.

- The Needs Assessment was key for tailoring of IC time and resources for project team training on Implementation Facilitation and ongoing implementation support.

- Monthly Periodic Reflections created a community for sharing and support as well as qualitative data collection identifying facilitators and barriers not captured by REDCap logs.

- Unique OAR-VEB was valuable in improving implementation success through regular meetings and ad hoc consultation.
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