

Division of Behavioral Health

Opioid Update for Wednesday, July 12, 2017

The Iowa Department of Public Health (IDPH) offers the Opioid Update to share information about opioid use and Iowa's efforts to address the national opioid epidemic. Please feel free to submit topics to Julie Jones at julie.jones@idph.iowa.gov.

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Provider Spotlight

IDPH is introducing readers to Opioid Treatment Programs (OTPs) serving the State of Iowa. First, here's a little information on what an OTP is, as defined by SAMHSA:

In the United States, the treatment of opioid dependence with medications is governed by the [Certification of Opioid Treatment Programs, 42 Code of Federal Regulations \(CFR\) 8](#). This regulation created a system to accredit and certify opioid treatment programs dispensing Methadone for an opioid use disorder. SAMHSA's Division of Pharmacologic Therapies (DPT), part of the SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), oversees the certification of OTPs. OTPs must be certified by SAMHSA and accredited by an independent, SAMHSA-approved accrediting body to dispense opioid treatment medications. All OTPs also must be licensed by the state in which they operate and must register with the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), through a local DEA office.

Heartland Family Service (HFS)

Founded in 1875, Heartland Family Service (HFS) serves more than 35,000 individuals of all ages each year from more than 15 locations in southwest Iowa and east central Nebraska. Our 50 programs provide critical human services to the individuals and families who ultimately shape the future of our community in the following focus areas: Child & Family, Counseling & Prevention and Housing & Financial Stability. Since 1984, HFS has been accredited through the Council on Accreditation (COA). In Iowa, HFS is a substance abuse treatment provider licensed by the Iowa Department of Public Health.

HFS contracts with Bay Area Addiction Research and Treatment (BAART) to provide Methadone treatment to individuals from western Iowa. BAART's office is located in Omaha, NE and serves 330 individuals monthly at this clinic from both Iowa and Nebraska. BAART is a multi-service organization, and brand of BayMark Health Services, providing opioid addiction treatment and rehabilitation for patients. Offering treatment for addiction to prescription medications and other opioids remains the focus of BAART's clinics. In combining evidence-based medication assisted treatment with counseling and behavioral services, BAART offers the most successful option for many patients. BAART is accredited through the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities (CARF). HFS is pleased to partner with BAART to offer the best expertise and treatment in our area. For more information, please call 712-322-1407.

Opioid News

The Opioid Opana ER is being taken off the Market*

According to Time Health, the opioid medication Opana ER is being voluntarily withdrawn from the market, its manufacturer Endo Pharmaceuticals said in a statement Thursday. The decision comes less than a month after the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) requested that drug sales be halted, due to concerns over its potential for misuse and abuse.

On June 8, the FDA announced that an advisory committee had determined that Opana ER tablets—ER stands for extended-relief—had “dangerous unintended consequences” and that “the benefits of the drug may no longer outweigh the risks.” The FDA stated that if Endo did not voluntarily recall the drug, the agency would formally withdrawal approval. (Extended-relief opioids come with increased risks of addiction and overdose.)

At the time, Endo said it was reviewing the request and evaluating its options. Last week the company released a statement saying that while it “continues to believe in the safety, efficacy, and favorable benefit-risk profile of Opana ER,” it has agreed to withdrawal the drug.

*This article was adapted from Time Health. To see the original, go [here](#).

Changes in Opioid Prescribing in the U.S.

A recent report by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) stated that despite reductions in opioid prescriptions, the amount of opioids prescribed remains approximately three times as high as in 1999. As many states show a decline in the amount of opioids being prescribed, approximately one-third of the counties in Iowa showed an increase in the number of opioid prescriptions being written. For more information regarding this report, go [here](#).

