

# Improving care for patients with Infective Endocarditis (IE) related to Intravenous drug use (IDU)

## Project Leads:

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## Project Team Members:

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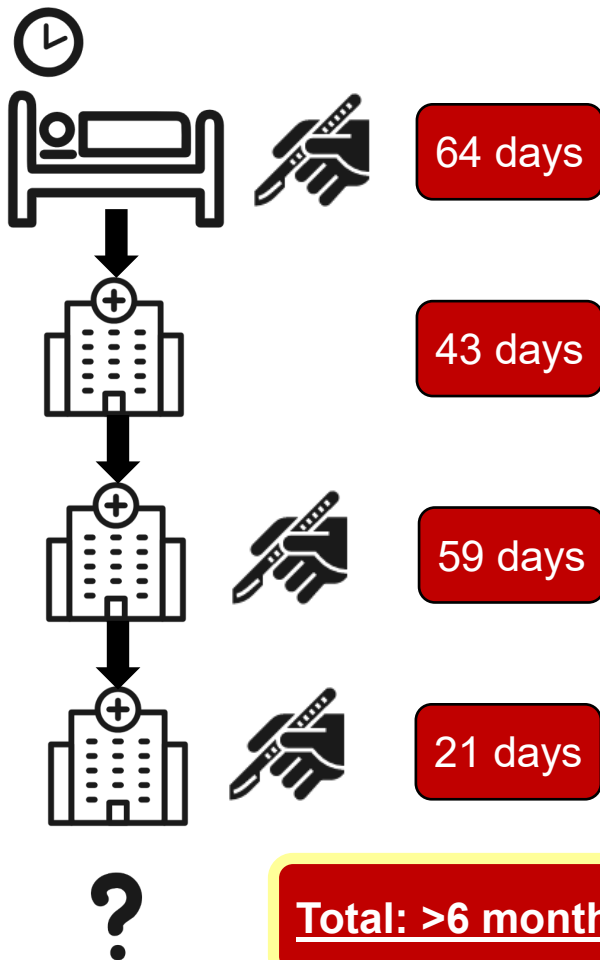


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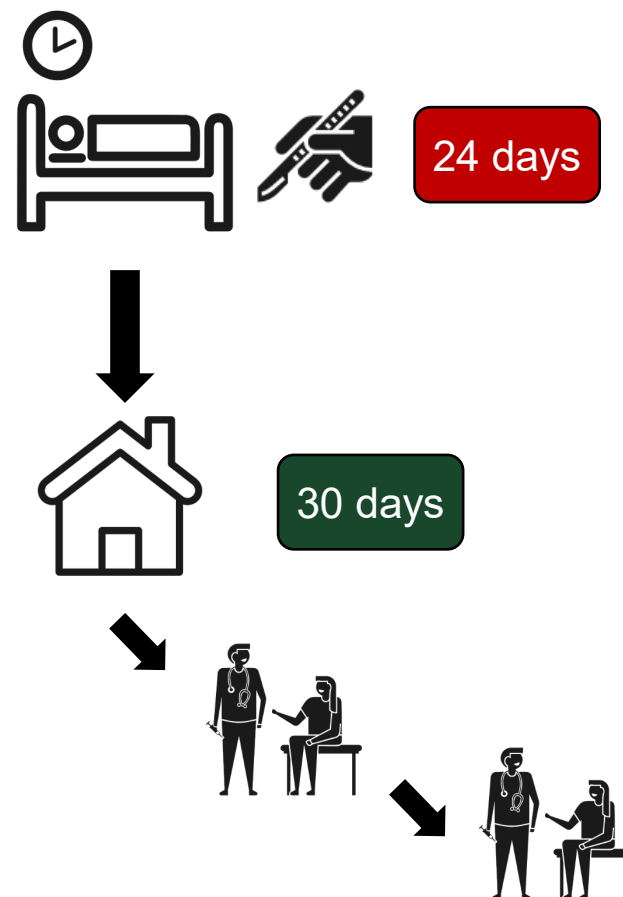
INSTITUTE FOR HEALTHCARE  
QUALITY IMPROVEMENT

# A Tale of Two Patients

2017-2018



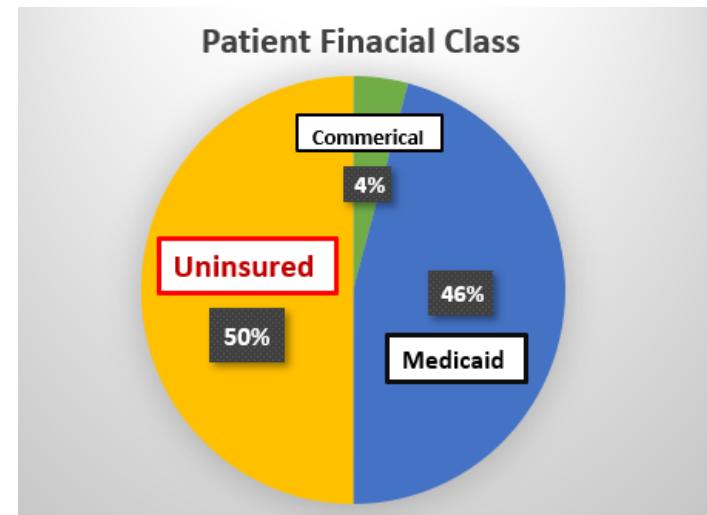
2021



# Importance

- Caring for patients with **IE-IDU** is **COSTLY**

At UNC, the **total cost of care** (lost opportunity + cost of care) for patients undergoing surgery for IE- IDU was **\$358,000** per patient



- Care is **INEFFICIENT**

- Weeks to months of in-hospital IV antibiotics

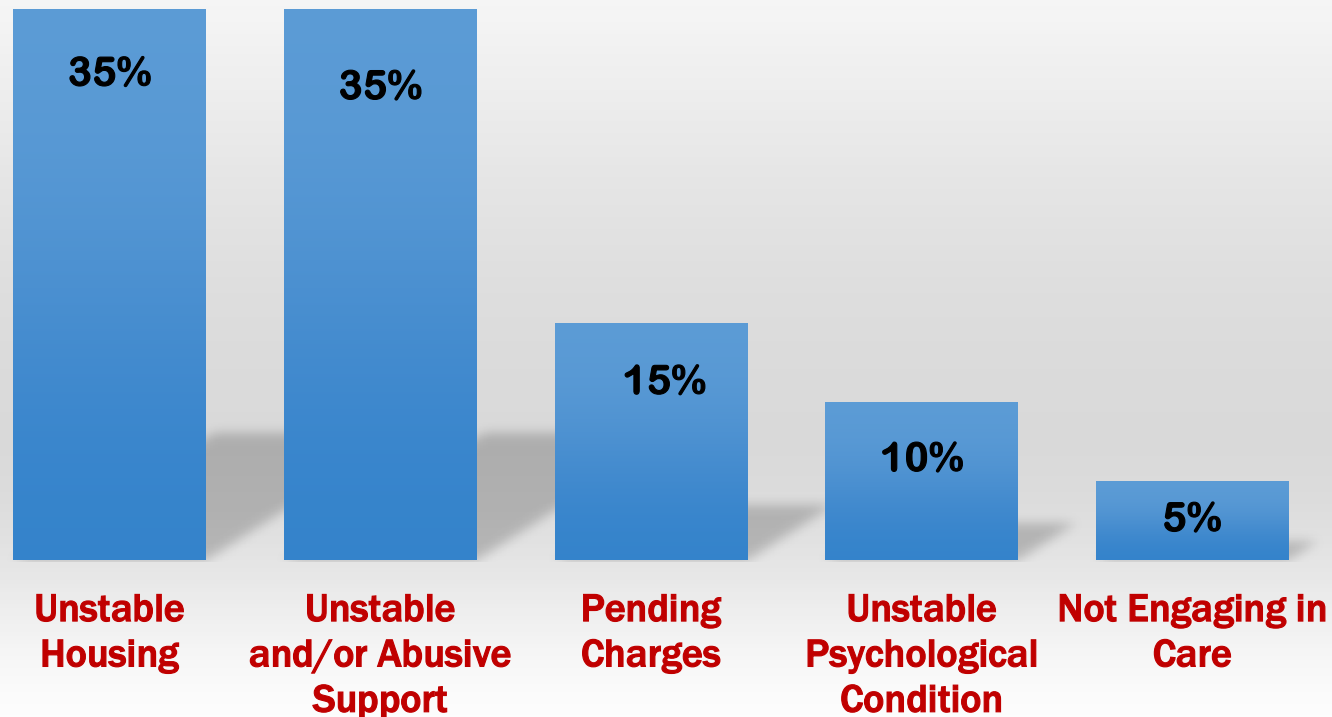
- Outcomes are **POOR**

- <sup>3</sup> Patients with untreated addiction have **higher** rates of **readmission & mortality**

# Importance



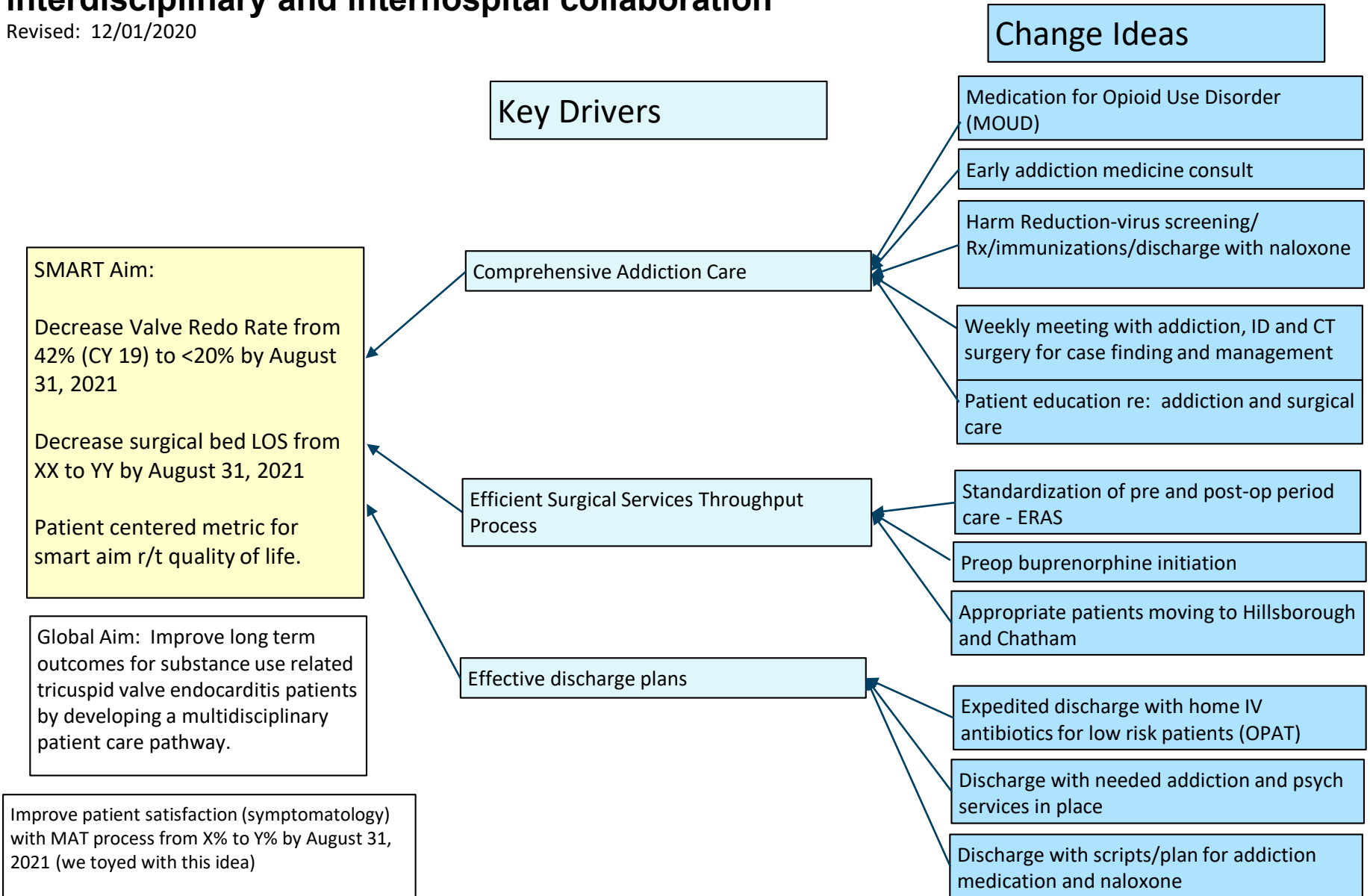
## Complicating Social Factors



# Key Driver version 1.0

## Optimizing Care of Patients with Tricuspid Valve Endocarditis r/t IVDU through interdisciplinary and interhospital collaboration

Revised: 12/01/2020





**EQUALITY**



**EQUITY**

# Key Driver v99

## Optimizing Care of Patients with Tricuspid Valve Endocarditis related to Intravenous use of drugs (IDU)

Revised: 8/12/2021

### Global Aim:

- To provide **equity of care** to patients with endocarditis related to IUD by ensuring all patients admitted to the hospital for this condition have access to evidence-based treatment options for OUD.

### Smart Aims:

Between April and September 2021:

- 60% of patients initiated on MOUD, to improve patient outcomes**
- 5% initiated on buprenorphine pre-operatively, to improve efficiency of care**
- 10% of patients discharged home on intravenous antibiotics (OPAT), to reduce cost of care**

### Key Drivers

### Change Ideas

#### Comprehensive Addiction Care (Phase 1)

#### Effective discharge plans (Phase 2)

**Inpatient initiation of medication for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)**

Preop buprenorphine initiation when able

Harm Reduction & naloxone prescribing

Weekly meeting w/addiction, ID and CT surgery to identify OPAT eligible patients & enhance **collaborative co-management**

**Patient education** re: addiction and surgical care

**Unique periOp pain management protocol**

Transfer to Hillsborough and Chatham post-op when appropriate

**Expedited discharge with home IV antibiotics for low risk patients (OPAT)**

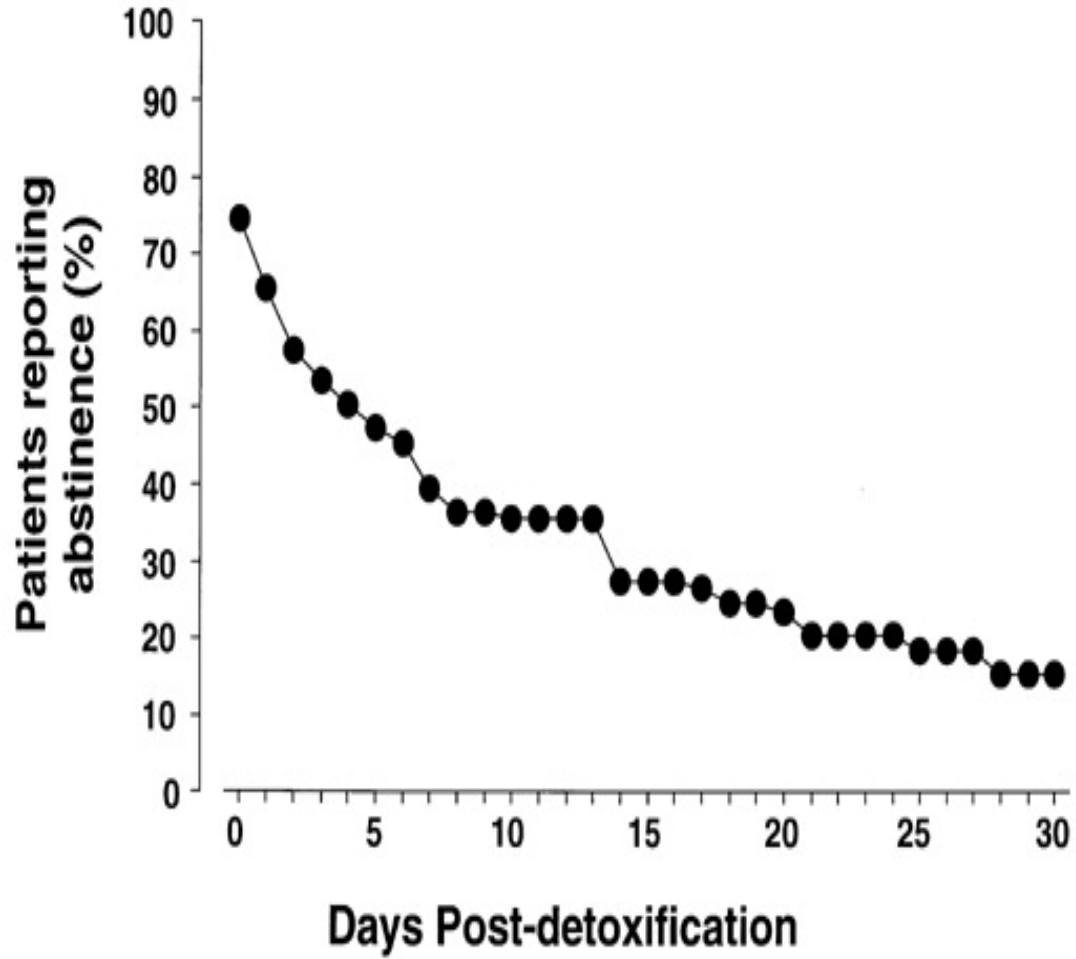
Discharge with needed Addiction services

## **What is EQUITABLE care for IE-IDU?**

- 1) Patient access to needed care teams: Infectious disease, Addiction Medicine & Cardiothoracic surgery**
- 2) Patients understand the disease process**
- 3) Opportunity to transition to outpatient care when medically appropriate**
- 4) Treatment with Buprenorphine as early as possible**



Why do patients with opioid addiction need buprenorphine?



**Detox doesn't work**

**How did we accomplish  
these goals?**

## Pathway for PreOperative initiation of buprenorphine

### IV Drug Use/Endocarditis Clinical Care Pathway: Perioperative Multimodal Pain Management

#### Preop:

- Patients may or may not be on buprenorphine (Suboxone).
  - Typical dose is 8-12 mg, which should not significantly affect perioperative pain control.
  - Addiction medicine service orders buprenorphine.
  - Yes, it is ok to take buprenorphine on the day of surgery.
- Alternatively, patients may be on methadone instead of buprenorphine. Patients should NOT be taking both.
  - Yes, it is ok to take methadone on the day of surgery.

## Principle:

**Improve efficiency and outcomes  
by starting Buprenorphine earlier**

- Ketamine 0.5 mg/kg bolus, followed by ketamine infusion 0.5 mg/kg/hour. Discontinue during chest closure.
- Sufentanil infusion (5 mcg/mL dilution), set at 0.3-0.6 mcg/kg/hr. Sufentanil should be started as soon as central line placement is complete. Discontinue during chest closure.

#### Postop:

- **Resume buprenorphine** at pre-op daily dosing

# **New UNC Program:** **Home IV Antibiotics for patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)**

(Developed by Infectious Diseases/OPAT, Addiction Psychiatry, General medicine and UNC Homecare)

## **Program Qualifications**

1. Patient, companions and medical team agree that home health with IV antibiotics is an appropriate treatment plan

## **Principle:**

**Reduce costs and increase equity  
by discharging patients home earlier**

6. Patient receiving medications for opioid use disorder or in a treatment program (strongly preferred\*)
7. Signed OPAT Treatment Plan

# Weekly Multi-Disciplinary meeting: Visual Management System

Patient Information							Assessments				MOUD				Surgery			OPAT				Other		
Patient Name	Medical Record Number	Patient Age at Admission	Last Review Date	Currently Admitted	Admit Primary Service	Identified by Weekly List 1=yes; 0=no	Seen by Addiction Medicine, 1= Yes, 0= No, 2 = No, not indicated on MAT, 3= No, Died prior to assessment	Seen by ID; 1=yes; 0=no	Screened for HIV?; 1=yes; 0=no	Seen by CIT; 1= yes, 0= no, 2= no, but not indicated	Has MOUD been Discussed?; 1=yes; 0=no	MOUD Accepted; 1=yes; 0=no	MOUD Receipt; 1=yes; 0=no	Pre-op initiation of suboxone 0=no; 1=yes;	Surgery Planned; 1=yes; 0=no	Reason for Surgery	Surgery Performed; 0= no, 1= yes	Evaluated for OPAT; 1=yes; 0=no; 2 OPAT not indicated	OPAT Candidate (per Thurs Meeting); 1=yes; 0=no	Reason not OPAT candidate	Enrolled in OPAT; 1= yes, 0= No	Complex Social Information	Addn pertinent info; 1=yes; 0=no	Pertinent information
Patient A				Y	MDC	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0			0	1	1					Injured in a car accident	
Patient B		42		Y	6NSH	1	1	1	1	0	0					0	0		Very hesitant to use anything		Trafficked and			
<h2 style="color: red;">Principle:</h2> <h1 style="color: red;">Improve outcomes</h1> <h2 style="color: black;">with a collaborative, multidisciplinary approach to care</h2>																								
Patient M	*****	41	6/24/2021	N	CTS	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	1	Flail MV	1	2		Completed abx course	0		1	elective surgical repair
Patient N	*****	40	6/24/2021	N	MCU	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	Died prior to candidacy	0		1	Inpatient ICU death
Patient O	*****	38	6/3/2021	N	SRV	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	1	severe AI	1	1	1	declined OPAT admitted he would be inclined to use.	0		1	On methadone pre-op	
Patient P	*****	49	6/10/2021	N	CAR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Severe TR, recurrent TV	1	1	0	Unstable housing	0	Partner is still using and is currently living in Apartment in Chapel Hill, rent out other	1	Left AMA due to housing concerns	
Patient Q	*****	32	5/27/2021	N	OB	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0			0	2	0	discharged on oral antibiotics; need for discussion with hospital	0		1	Surgery was indicated but delayed d/t pregnancy
Patient R	*****	27	6/10/2021	N	MCU	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	Transferred back to sending hospital	0		1	transferred from MICU back to sending hospital
Patient S	*****	28	4/23/2021	N	MCU	1	1	1	0	1	1	0	0	0	Large TV veg, severe TR	1	1	0	Not engaging in care	0		0		septic emboli to lungs, brain, sternum; CTEPH, massive PE
Patient T	*****	30	5/27/2021	N	MEDK	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0			0	0	0	Left AMA	0		1	AMA in < 24 hours
Patient U	*****	45	5/13/2021	N	CTS	0	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	Right atrial veg	1	1	0	Housing/lack of MOUD	0	Partner encouraging continued use	1		Suspect in hospital drug use (syringes found) and left AMA
Patient V	*****	22	4/23/2021	N	MEDU	0	1	1	1	1	1	1	0	0			0	1	0	Teams agree not appropriate	0		1	Prior TVR (MSSA), brought to ED for overdose 30 days later
Patient W	*****	33	4/23/2021	N	CTS	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	Prosthetic valve infection, Severe TR	1	1	0	Housing	0		1		Failed postop buprenorphine, prior TVR
Patient X	*****	22	4/15/2021	N	CAR	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1			1	1	0	lack of social support	0	abusive partner, pending charges for in-hospital heroin use, schizoprenia	1	AMA discharge, preop suboxone, did well postop
Patient Y	*****	28	4/15/2021	N	MEDK	0	1	1	0	1	1	1	0	0			1	0	0	Left AMA	0		1	had severe w/d with suboxone d/t in-hospital drug use, left AMA

# Patient Education Materials

## Endocarditis Care at UNC Health

### What is *endocarditis*?

When a person injects drugs, bacteria can enter the blood and cause infections in many parts of the body. Endocarditis is an infection of the heart due to bacteria in the blood. Patients who have endocarditis due to drug use are at risk for infections in other parts of the body also.



Tell your hospital doctor if you have any of these symptoms:

- numbness
- chest pain
- neck or back pain
- weakness
- leg swelling
- belly pain

## Endocarditis Care at UNC Health (cont.)

- 1 **IV antibiotics:** You will need to take IV antibiotics for at least 6 weeks. Some patients need repeat testing after antibiotics to make sure the infection is completely gone. Some patients need to continue IV antibiotics longer.
- 2 **PICC line:** To get antibiotics for such a long time you will need a PICC line, which is a long IV placed in your arm that can be safely kept in place for weeks to months while you are getting treatment.
- 3 **Addiction care:** Our addiction medicine team will treat opioid use disorder while you are in the hospital. By stopping injecting drugs, you can prevent this kind of infection from coming back.
- 4 **Testing for viruses:** People who inject drugs a lot get viral infections like HIV and hepatitis. We will test you for these viruses while you are in the hospital. Let us know if you have had one of these infections before or if you know that you shared a needle with someone. Also let us know if you have received a tetanus or hepatitis

## Principle:

**Increase patient engagement and adherence by enhancing understanding**

what you need to stay healthy.

**Buprenorphine** helps to treat cravings, which enables you to participate in your care more and feel more comfortable.

If you are having surgery, we recommend starting **buprenorphine** before surgery. We are confident that we can treat pain after surgery with medicines that don't interfere with **buprenorphine**. Talk to your doctors about this if you have concerns. Our goal is to make sure you are as comfortable as possible and support you on the path to recovery from opioid use disorder.

# iCARE Pathway

**i**mproving **C**are for **A**ddiction **R**elated **E**ndocarditis

## IVDU Endocarditis Panel (iCARE)

### IVDU Endocarditis Panel (iCARE) HIV Labs

Order if patient is not already known positive or if not screened within the past 3 months

HIV Antigen/Antibody Combo

### IVDU Endocarditis Panel (iCARE) Hepatitis C Labs


Order Hep C Antibody if patient has no prior Hepatitis C test or has a previous negative Hepatitis C antibody  
Order Hep C RNA if patient has previously-positive Hepatitis C antibody test

Hepatitis C Antibody

Hepatitis C RNA, Quantitative, PCR

Once, First occurrence today at 1224

### IVDU Endocarditis Panel (iCARE) Consults

 Inpatient consult to Infectious Diseases

[Order details](#)

 Inpatient consult to Cardiothoracic Surgery

[Order details](#)

 Inpatient consult to IV Drug Use

[Order details](#) P

## Principles:

# Educate, Spread & Sustain



## Endocarditis Checklist

The following items are recommended for completion



Consult Infectious Disease



Consult Cardiothoracic Surgery



Consult IV Drug Use Service



Provide patient with education materials



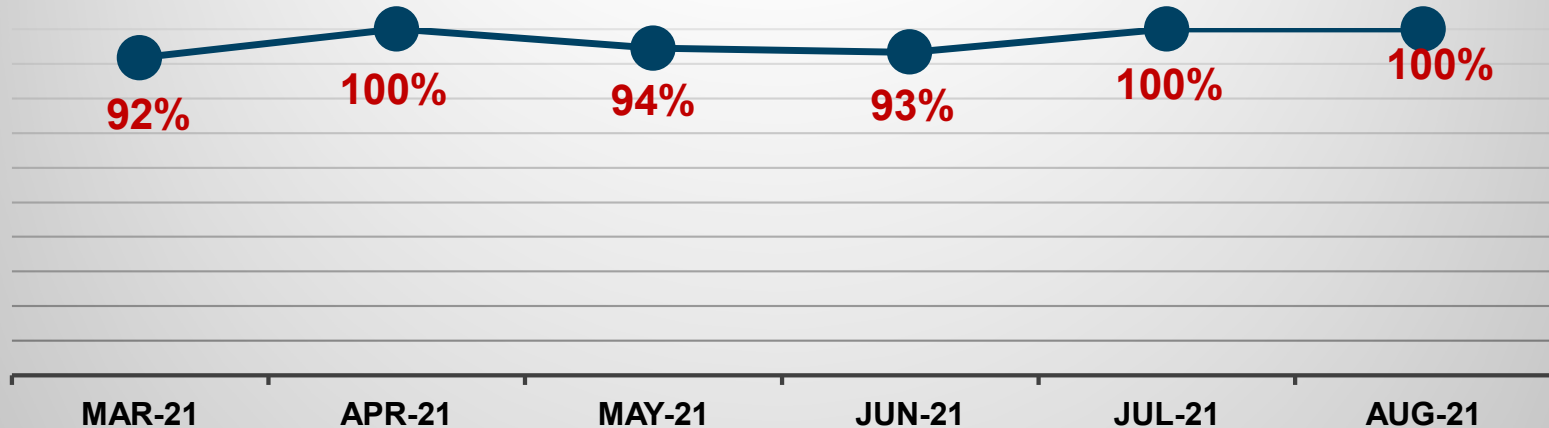
Utilize infection prevention strategies (dotphrase .IDPrevent)

**iCARE** aims to improve care equity and patient outcomes in addiction related endocarditis via timely evidence-based treatment, medications for addiction and providing support for patients in recovery. The pathway was developed by UNC infectious disease, addiction medicine, cardiothoracic surgery, internal medicine, pharmacy, anesthesiology, chronic pain and quality improvement.

# How did we do?



## Percentage of Patients that Received All Indicated Consults

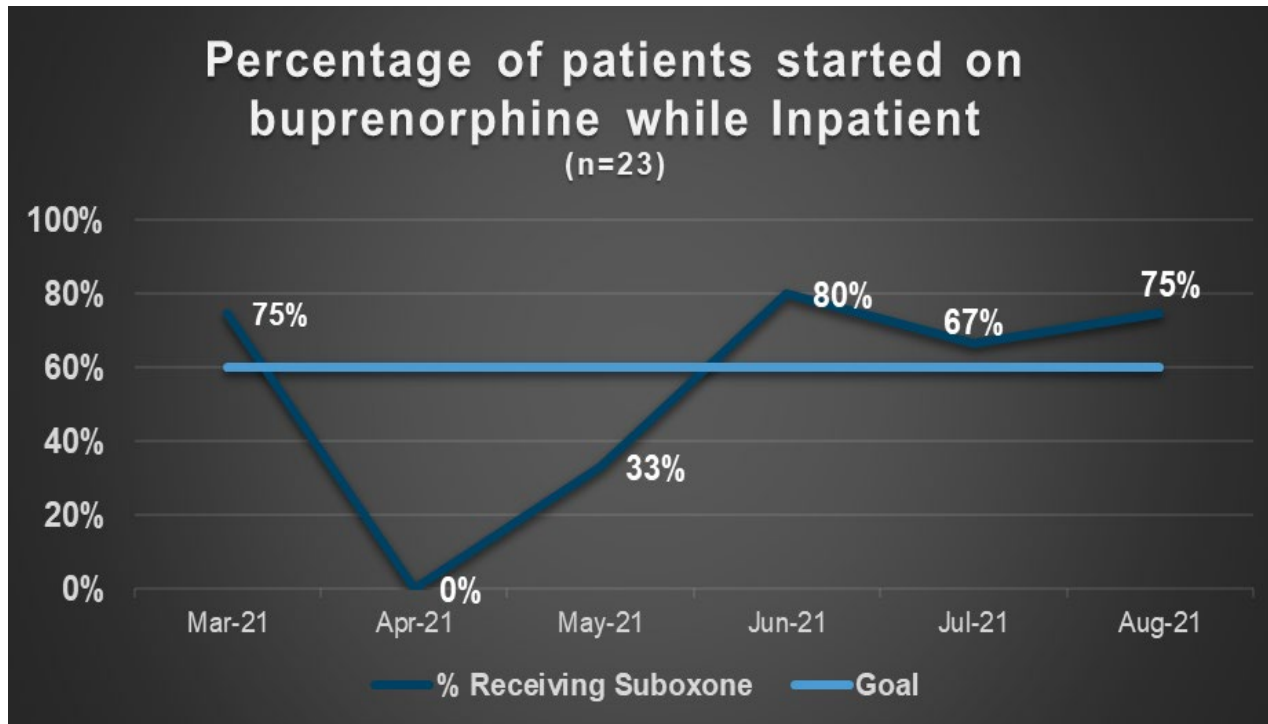


### Indicated consultations:

1. Infectious Disease
2. Addiction medicine
3. Cardiothoracic surgery

**From 2015-2017:**

**2%** of patients were started on buprenorphine while inpatient



**From 2015-2020:**

**0%** were started on buprenorphine pre-operatively

**In the past 3 months:**

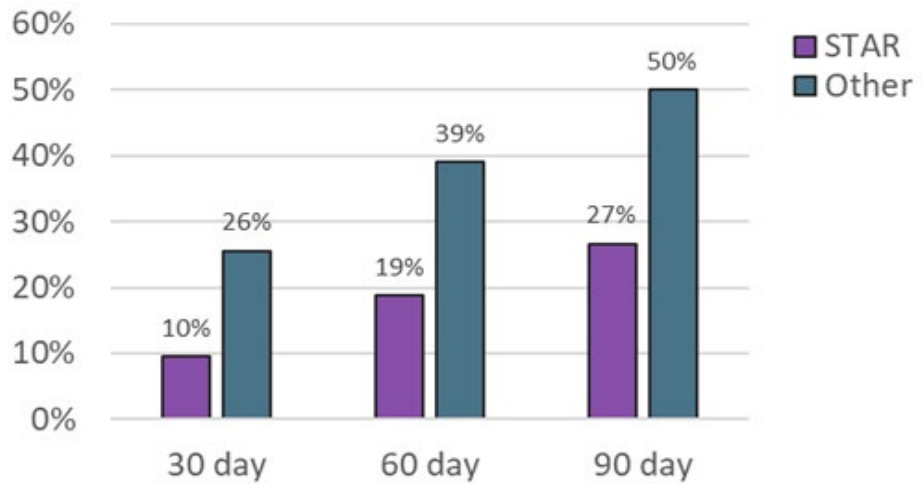
**100%** of patients were started on buprenorphine pre-operatively

# \*OPAT Experience (Home IV Antibiotics)

Late December 2020 through August 2021

\* Efforts led by Dr. Schranz & OPAT team

	OPAT Patients (n=7)
Hospital days saved (days on OPAT), median	24
Hospital days saved, total	166
Follow-up in ID clinic	7 (100%)
30-day readmission (%)	1 (14%)



**Readmission rates**  
 For patients started on Buprenorphine in the hospital & with or without follow-up in UNC Addiction (STAR) Clinic  
 \* Efforts led by Dr. Robin Jordan & team

# At Home “Results”



Thank you for your time & attention

# Thank you to our Amazing Team

**Dr Lavinia Kolarczyk (Sponsor; Anesthesia)**

**Dr Matt Nielsen (Coach; Urology)**

**Matt Huemmer (IHQI Project manager)**

**Kelly Reilly (IHQI Project manager)**

**Megan Quinn, NP (CTS)**

**Dr Robyn Jordan (Addiction)**

**Kate Roberts (Addiction SW)**

**Dr Irina Phillips (Pain)**

**Keva Southwell, PA (Hillsborough)**

**Lindsey Kennedy (Pharmacy)**

**Dr Jenny Bui (CTS)**

**Dr Madeline McCray (ID)**

**Many others....**