A CHARACTERIZATION OF FIRST-TIME ENROLLEES AND REPEATED ENROLLEES ENTERING MEDICATION-ASSISTED SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT PROGRAMS

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Introduction

• According to results from the Opioid Analgesic Dependence Education Nexus Meeting in 2014, an estimated 22.8 million patients across European countries use prescription opioid analgesics; with an estimated 455,000 likely to be dependent.

• We aim to describe characteristics of individuals entering medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for drug dependence for the first time compared to those who sought treatment more than once.

Methods

• EUROPAD Program data collected at sites in France, Germany, Italy, Norway, Spain and the United Kingdom (UK) from fourth quarter 2014 through third quarter 2015 (N=508). Data collection between sites may not be identical.

• Patients aged 18-65 entering MAT were surveyed to gather demographic information, primary drug used “to get high,” including route and source, in the 90 days prior to treatment intake.

• Data were stratified by country (location of centre) and compared by group (first-time enrollees versus repeated enrollees).

• T-tests were used to determine differences between current age and age at first entrance into treatment. Chi-square tests were used to determine if gender or current treatment for an opioid substance use disorder were different between the two groups.

• If a patient endorsed more than one primary drug, they were characterized as having “More than 1 primary drug.”

Table 1: Characteristics of EUROPAD Enrollees

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variable</th>
<th>France N = 104</th>
<th>Germany N = 133</th>
<th>Italy N = 46</th>
<th>Norway N = 63</th>
<th>Spain N = 40</th>
<th>UK N = 122</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>First-Time Enrollees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N, %</td>
<td>38, 36.5</td>
<td>6, 4.5</td>
<td>6, 13.0</td>
<td>9, 14.3</td>
<td>2, 5.0</td>
<td>42, 34.4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, Mean (SD)</td>
<td>35.7 (10.53)</td>
<td>40.0 (13.90)</td>
<td>28.8 (7.91)</td>
<td>36.2 (7.08)</td>
<td>54.0 (15.56)</td>
<td>36.2 (7.67)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Age, Mean (SD)*</td>
<td>28.2 (9.38)</td>
<td>36.8 (13.20)</td>
<td>25.8 (10.16)</td>
<td>31.1 (7.20)</td>
<td>34.5 (6.36)</td>
<td>30.0 (6.81)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Repeat Enrollees</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>N, %</td>
<td>66, 63.5</td>
<td>127, 95.5</td>
<td>40, 87.0</td>
<td>54, 85.7</td>
<td>38, 95.0</td>
<td>80, 65.6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age, Mean (SD)</td>
<td>39.6 (8.97)</td>
<td>39.9 (8.68)</td>
<td>38.1 (10.36)</td>
<td>35.5 (10.53)</td>
<td>45.6 (9.96)</td>
<td>39.1 (8.09)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Treatment Age, Mean (SD)*</td>
<td>26.0 (8.00)</td>
<td>25.8 (7.92)</td>
<td>26.3 (8.27)</td>
<td>24.3 (7.87)</td>
<td>31.0 (11.46)</td>
<td>26.9 (7.65)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Some respondents did not supply their age at first entrance to treatment, therefore the N may be smaller

Results

• The mean (SD) of current age of first-time enrollees and repeated enrollees were statistically different in France (p=0.047) and Italy (p=0.043).

• Differences in mean (SD) age at first entrance into treatment were statistically significant in Germany (p=0.0016), Norway (p=0.019), and the UK (p=0.033).

• In all countries except France, heroin was among the most frequently reported as the primary drug of abuse for both first-time and repeated enrollees.

• In France and the UK repeat enrollees and German first-time enrollees, “More than 1 primary drug” was one of the top two primary drugs of abuse.

• Of the drugs reported as the primary drug of abuse, codeine was the second most frequently reported in the UK among first-time enrollees.

• Buprenorphine was one of three most frequently reported primary drugs in the repeated enrollees in both France and Norway.

Conclusions & Limitations

• Current age was similar between the groups, and statistically significant differences were found for France and Italy.

• Significant differences were found between the groups in age at first entrance to treatment for Germany, Norway and the United Kingdom.

• The majority of both first-time and repeat enrollees endorsed heroin as their primary drug.

• Additional studies are necessary to further understand these results and the complexities of this patient population.

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