

Abstract

The worsening opioid crisis and the concomitant fewer number of primary care providers who treat addiction disease result in reduced access to methadone maintenance treatment programs for opioid use disorder. Nurse practitioners (NPs) have been delineated "qualified practitioners" to prescribe schedule III, IV, and V in the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder since the passage of the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (2016). The purpose of this Capstone Project is to evaluate the NP-Physician shared care model in an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP) as a quality improvement initiative. The effect of the implementation of the shared care model is assessed using Donabedian's framework for healthcare quality on structure, process, and outcomes on increased provider access, improved patient satisfaction, and increased provider efficiency. The findings of this study show an increase in patient access, patient satisfaction, and improved provider efficiency thus supporting the NP-Physician shared care model in OTP in clinical support roles and as leaders to develop and implement policy in combating the unrelenting opioid crisis.

(Keywords: nurse practitioner, outpatient, opioid treatment, quality, shared-role, effectiveness)