

Abstract: Treatment for Complex Patients: Continuing and Extended Care

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This application responds to NOT-CA-12-007 concerning research on the Family Smoking Prevention and Tobacco Control Act (FSPTCA), and on communication about tobacco products. Prior work in our Center has developed tobacco-related staff and client survey measures, and used those measures to study a New York policy to reduce tobacco use in addiction treatment. In this application we exploit those successful collaborations and methods to investigate impacts of federal policy (FDA health warnings) in drug abuse treatment. Working with a randomly selected and representative sample of New York treatment clinics, this project will assess the effects of new warning labels on persons in drug abuse treatment. Data collection points are before new warnings are implemented and approximately six months after implementation.

Respondents include a longitudinal sample of 240 staff and cross-sectional samples of 400 clients. Measures include tobacco-related knowledge, attitudes and practices used by staff, tobacco-related services received by clients, and changes in smoking prevalence, quit attempts, and cigarettes per day (CPD). In addition, secondary analysis of New York administrative data enables assessment of warning label impacts on smoking prevalence at treatment admission and discharge, and receipt of tobacco-related medications while in treatment. No other dataset nationally permits this type of observation for large samples of persons engaged in addiction treatment. Hypotheses are that new warnings will be associated with more positive attitudes about treatment of smoking for both clients and staff, provision of more tobacco-related services by staff, receipt of more tobacco-related services among clients, and reductions in smoking prevalence and CPD. The supplement, therefore, studies the impacts of changes in warning labels against a true baseline, using multiple levels of measurement (patients, staff, agency), in a generalizable sample, and in a population where smoking is prevalent. The long-term goal is to inform the FDA and tobacco control community concerning effective regulatory and policy tools to reach vulnerable populations, those with mental health and substance abuse diagnoses, who smoke nearly half of all cigarettes consumed in the U.S.