

Supportive Treatment for Addiction and Recovery
(STAR)

***Policies and Procedures for
Medications for Addiction Treatment at Heartland Alliance Health***
Updated October 2019

Acronyms/Definitions:

AODC: Alcohol and Other Drug Counselors are certified to provide addiction-related counseling services.

BH: Behavioral Health- the Behavioral Health team includes LCSW/LCPCs, AODCs, and Peer Recovery Support Specialists/Recovery Coaches

HAH: Heartland Alliance Health- An FQHC (330H) that services people experiencing homelessness in Chicago, IL

LCSW/LCPC: Licensed Clinical Social Worker/Licensed Clinical Professional Counselors

MA: Medical Assistants room patients, complete vital signs, complete all screening questions in Centricity and schedule follow up visits

Medical Provider: Includes physicians, nurse practitioners, physician assistants

MAT: Medication for Addiction Treatment

STAR: Supportive Treatment for Addiction and Recovery- This HAH team includes all members providing substance use disorder treatment, including counseling, therapy, group sessions, and medication management and monitoring.

STAR Urine Drug Testing Protocol

Urine Drug Testing (UDT) is specifically recommended for monitoring individuals with opioid use disorder, especially in the case we are prescribing controlled substances (i.e. buprenorphine). It is recommended to be used as one objective measure of recovery, but is NOT the only measure for how someone is doing in their recovery. UDT can be used randomly, though in our setting we have had a hard time doing random call-ins (because of lack of phone access, lack of transportation, difficulty with being able to leave jobs, etc) so have typically defaulted to using UDT at every visit, or at least most visits the participant is being seen by the clinical team. UDT is often used to help determine the frequency of follow up visits as a form of contingency management. UDT is recommended when prescribing XR naltrexone to ensure no opioid use, and can be used in counseling and monitoring of other substance use disorders.

- Every patient coming for STAR clinic for medical management will be given a rapid urine drug test, and ideally have given urine and have the tests result BEFORE the provider visit. This is listed in the OUD order set as “POC UDS.” (Point of care UDS)
 - The STAR team member will be responsible for adding the results into the chart in the “Urine Drug Screen” form in Centricity in the provider chart (this should be in the provider note, not the STAR team member note for faster/easier reference. STAR team member should “sign” the form so it’s clear who read the results).
 - If the STAR team member notes any positive result, that should be discussed with the participant and documented in the chart, and the provider should be alerted before entering the room.
 - Remember: the rapid cups are not 100% accurate. If a participant says that they did not use, just reassure them that we will do a send out which is much more accurate; ensure the provider is aware that a confirmation test should be ordered.
- The provider will order “Pain management, BUPRENORPHINE, with confirmation” (the confirmatory buprenorphine test) for every patient on buprenorphine. This is done because we are looking for both the presence of norbuprenorphine and the ratio of buprenorphine: norbuprenorphine. This is in the OUD order set.

In the case that we do not have rapid cups in clinic, use the “pain management” send out in addition to the Pain management, buprenorphine with confirmation”.

Additional Testing (done on case by case basis):

- Positive test results the participant denies: In the case that a rapid urine drug screen is positive for a substance (i.e. amphetamine or benzodiazepines often have false positives), the provider will order confirmatory testing and reassure participant that we will get a more accurate test. (This is called “Pain management Profile 5, with conf, urine” and is in the OUD order set. There are more specific tests for benzodiazepines if needed). If on the other hand, the rapid test is positive for cocaine and the participant confirms cocaine use, no further testing needed.
- Reproductive age female able to get pregnant (I.e. no hysterectomy): Order a point of care urine HCG at least once a month. This is in the OUD order set and is listed as “Urine pregnancy test”.

- Patient with co-occurring alcohol use: Alcohol metabolites can be added to other urine drug testing.
- Fentanyl Testing: Fentanyl is not tested for in either the rapid or the standard send out drug screen. If a participant reports “heroin” use but the opioid test is negative, you may consider adding fentanyl to the orders. There may be other cases (for example a participant thinks they may have been exposed to fentanyl during heroin use) in which this information can be helpful to the participant to increase their awareness about the drugs they’ve consumed.