

# Patient Safety Case Review: Inpatient Use of Recreational Opiates

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## Background of Case

- Patient with active substance use (reported snorting 8-10 bags of fentanyl/day) not initially interested in MOUD admitted to TJUH for severe sepsis due to empyema
- Placed on hydromorphone PCA with scheduled oxycodone for pain control and withdrawal, found to have diverted prescribed opiates and used recreational fentanyl while inpatient



#### **Project Aim:**

- 1) Perform root cause analysis of safety event
- 2) Develop solutions to prevent similar instances in future given growing opiate epidemic in Philadelphia

#### Interventions

Case review with pharmacy leadership, nursing unit, and patient safety office regarding Pyxis error

JAMS leadership – provide educational conference to address inpatient opiate use, OUD protocol, off-protocol management of patients disinterested in methadone or suboxone

Physician leaders – promoting behavioral charters; protocolizing approaches to substance use inpatient including patient searches, 1:1 sitters in a temporary action multidisciplinary group

# Identified Contributing Factors to Substance Use

Key Contributor: Uncontrolled Withdrawal due to...

### **Uncontrolled Pain**

- Acute pain triggers: chest tube, empyema, lab draws
- Chronic hip pain

# Uncertainty about prior substance use

- Patient reluctance to disclose degree of use
- Provider inexperience, lack of proficiency with order set
- Time constraints
- Conscious and unconscious bias associated with substance use

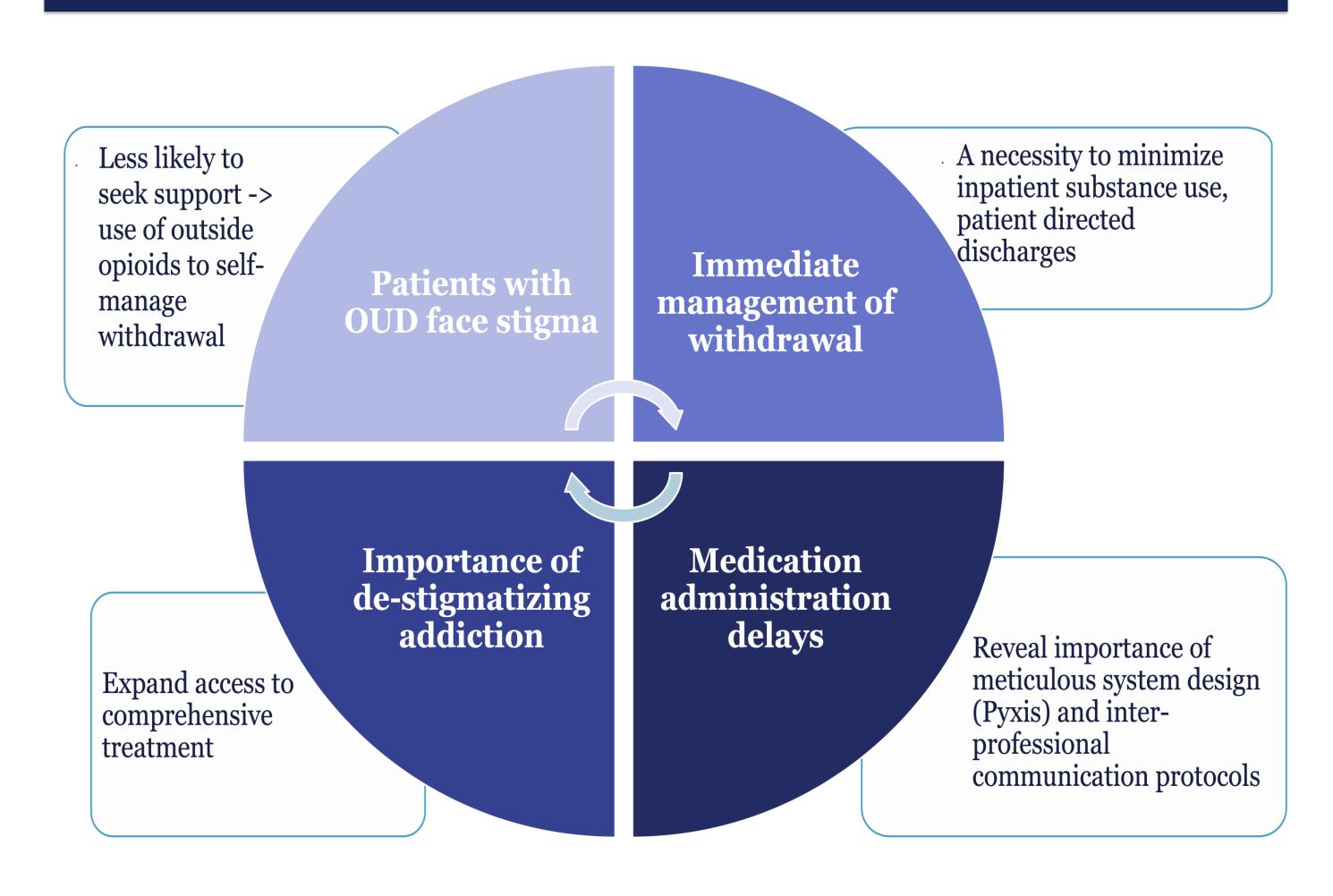
## Underdosing of opiate agonists

- Medication administration delay due to inaccurate Pyxis programming and delayed medication restock without pharmacy's knowledge leading to missed doses of scheduled oxycodone
- Patient hesitancy to share symptoms and unreliable assessment of withdrawal (COWS)

# Linkage to Healthcare Disparities

- Black and Latino populations less access to MOUD; managing withdrawal, encouraging MOUD inpatient likely key avenue into treatment (Lagisetty, 2019)
- Patients in Philadelphia with SUD 5.5x more likely to self-direct discharge than those without
  - Undertreated acute pain identified as key driver leading to decreased quality of care (Compton, 2021).
- Inpatient management of withdrawal and how inpatient substance use are handled by hospital policy affords opportunity to correct the heath care system's role in systemic inequality (Martin, 2023)

## Challenges and Lessons Learned



#### **Future Directions**



Develop interventions to combat stigma:

supply and teach motivational interviewing scripting for providers



Strengthen collaboration: Foster interdisciplinary partnerships to provide comprehensive OUD treatment strategies



Enhance withdrawal management: Improve existing withdrawal orderset. Provide training/protocols to care for patients declining MOUD.



Implement system improvements for inpatient management: Conduct thorough review of the Pyxis protocols and invest in staff training and system updates



Role of Searches: Partner with security and nursing to develop room search protocol when inpatient substance use suspected to optimize safety and limit stigmatization