

May 19, 2023

ILLINOIS HEALTH AND HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION
M E M O R A N D U M

SUBJECT: UPDATE: Interest Form Deadline Extended to June 7: Free Program for ED Support with OUD Treatment

The Bridge and Opioid Response Network is **offering three Illinois hospitals the opportunity to collaborate in the Bridge Starts Program**, which assists hospital emergency departments (ED) in reducing overdose risk and providing a pathway to treatment for patients experiencing Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).

The California Bridge program has successfully helped 271 hospital EDs become proficient in caring for individuals with OUD, including starting buprenorphine in the ED with appropriate follow up to ongoing care. This successful program now provides their expertise to a few targeted states nationally, including Illinois.

The Bridge Starts Program is an eight week intensive program that provides individualized education and technical assistance for on-site champions and their teams. **To confirm interest in joining the Illinois cohort for the program, complete the [brief form](#) linked in the program flyer with hospital contact information by June 7.**

At no additional cost, the Bridge Starts Program aims to provide:

- Eight weeks of virtual trainings and individualized technical assistance designed specifically for the hospital team;
- Collaboration with clinical subject matter experts on leadership capacity building;
- In-person site visits to participating EDs;
- Coordination with local providers for ongoing care of OUD; and
- Region-specific guidance that aligns hospital and ED treatment access with existing priorities and stakeholders.

Participating hospitals will ideally have a lead champion, administrative support of on-site buprenorphine as medication for OUD, and a list of follow up organizations for post-ED referral; however, Illinois' [Medication Assisted Recovery Now hotline](#) would work for initial referrals.

Programmatic goals for participating hospitals include:

- Implementation of a program that treats patients with OUD and/or withdrawal;
- Robust referral pathways for ongoing OUD treatment;
- Signage inviting patient disclosure of desire for MOUD information or treatment; and

- A continuing team to advocate and grow the MOUD program.

Virtual trainings will take place from 1:00 p.m. to 2:30 p.m. CT on July 11, July 25, Aug. 4 and Aug. 29. Individualized technical assistance for each hospital team is available between 12:00 p.m. and 3 p.m. CT on July 18, Aug. 1 and Aug. 22.