

Implementing Clinical Research in Medication-Assisted Treatment Programs: The START Experience

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MARCH 08, 2018



Financial Disclosure

- Dr R Zavala has disclosed no financial conflicts
- No products or services will be merchandised to audience
- Presentation has been reviewed by the event organizers & has been approved for dissemination

Objectives

- 1) Provide an Overview of Research Implementation at START Treatment & Recovery Centers
- 2) Describe Interventions to Engage Patients and Staff in Research Activities at START Treatment & Recovery Centers

Who is START?

- A not-for-profit organization that has been providing medical, behavioral and social services to New York City residents since 1969
- During its lifespan, more than 40,000 patients have benefitted from these services
- Currently, there are 7 Medication-Assisted Treatment Programs (MATPs) serving 2,800 patients
 - 90% are African-Americans & Hispanics
 - The average age is 55 years
 - Male:Female ratio is 2:1



Source: <https://startny.org/>

START & Clinical Research

- Research funds from the public sector:
 - National Institute of Health
 - Centers for Disease Control & Prevention
 - National Institute of Drug Abuse
 - Clinical Trials Network
 - AIDS Institute
 - Patient Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI)
- Private sector:
 - Pharmaceutical Companies;
 - Clinical Laboratories; and
 - Medical Devices Manufacturers



Source: <https://startny.org/our-research>

START & Clinical Research

- The agency uses a five-point criteria to guide the selection of clinical research projects:
 1. Must answer an important scientific question
 2. Must have relevance to clinical care
 3. Must be able to implement without disruptions to clinical care
 4. Must provide sustainable learning opportunities for staff and patients when completed
 5. Must meet all costs incurred by START to participate in the research



Source: <https://startny.org/our-research>

START & Clinical Research Implementation

- Given the established legacy of research within our agency, the implementation of research protocols is facilitated by:
 1. Longevity of the Core Research Team
 2. Supportive Patient Advisory Committees & General Patient Population
 3. Involved Clinical Leadership and Staff
 4. Encouraging Senior Management



Patient Selection & Recruitment

1. Use Electronic Medical Records to Select Candidates

- ✓ Generate and tailor lists according to study criteria

2. Reach Out to Clinical Staff

- ✓ Involve them from the beginning
 - They know more about the patient ----

3. Reach Out to Patient Advisory Committees

- ✓ Also, involve them from the beginning
 - Positive word of mouth is useful ---



Patient & Staff Engagement

1. Identify “Champions” at Clinical Sites

- Participate in local meetings
- Ask managers/supervisors

2. Culture/Nurture “Champions”

- Learn their educational/working background
- Provide timely and accurate feedback

3. Recognize “Champions”

- Provide personalized incentives
- Use media (company newsletter; meetings; social platforms; emails)



START & Clinical Research Implementation

➤ Information Dissemination is key to maintaining relationships

1) **Keep Visible All Research Activities**

- 1) Explain the impact and meaning of research project (why is this study necessary?)
- 2) Provide periodic reports on study progress (from beginning to end)
- 3) Prepare easy-to-interpret literature (it will complement your words)
- 4) Be always available to field questions/comments

2) **Sustain Staff & Patient Recognition**

- 1) Commend everyone who made the project a reality
--- Personalized this message as much as possible ---





References & Further Reading

- 1) <https://startny.org/>
- 2) <https://startny.org/our-research>
- 3) Barriers to Clinical Trial Recruitment and Possible Solutions: A Stakeholder Survey
<http://www.appliedclinicaltrials.com/barriers-clinical-trial-recruitment-and-possible-solutions-stakeholder-survey>
- 4) Transforming Clinical Research in the United States: Challenges and Opportunities: Workshop Summary
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK50888/>
- 5) Ethical Considerations in Substance Abuse and Addiction Research
<https://your.yale.edu/policies-procedures/other/ethical-considerations-substance-abuse-and-addiction-research>

