

Behavioral Health is Essential To Health • Prevention Works • Treatment is Effective • People Recover

D-ATM: A Tool to Support Continuity of Care for OTP Patients

What is D-ATM? Its Purpose?

Digital Access to Medication (D-ATM) is sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)'s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. D-ATM was developed in response to the attacks of September 11, 2001, and Hurricane Katrina. Its purpose is to ensure continuity of care for patients in medication-assisted treatment when it is not possible for them to obtain treatment at their 'home' opioid treatment program (OTP) due to a disruption in service – for instance, because the program must close due to an emergency, or is closed on Sundays. During such events, it is critical that patients can obtain needed medication. For this to occur, 'guest' OTPs must have access to limited but specific information, to provide a safe and accurate dose. Through the SAMHSA D-ATM project, a system now exists to acquire, store, and distribute this information, under appropriate restrictions, when it is needed.

Why Use D-ATM?

Any patient's medication is important, but for a patient in treatment for opioid dependence, receiving a safe, accurate dose in a timely manner is critical. Methadone patients have individualized doses and take-home schedules and normally must be enrolled in a particular home clinic. D-ATM receives and stores critical information from the patient's home clinic. In the event circumstances prevent a patient from being able to get to the home clinic, D-ATM will provide just enough information to a guest clinic to verify the person seeking treatment is a patient and ensure that patient receives a safe and accurate, individualized dose.

How D-ATM Works

D-ATM is a centralized, Web-based computer system that interfaces with an OTP's clinical management software system through a 'technological handshake.' Once this is set up, patient data is automatically sent into D-ATM on a daily basis from the OTP's system – without OTP staff doing any additional data entry. For this to work, the patient must be enrolled in D-ATM using a finger scanner. Names and other identifying information are *not* entered into D-ATM. When data must be accessed, it can be done so only with the patient's consent.

Who Can Participate in D-ATM?

D-ATM will expand into targeted locations around the country. **OTPs** in those areas that have "D-ATM Ready" clinical management software will be able to participate in the system. [Current D-ATM-Ready systems include Netsmart's Avatar and AMS Enterprise and Netalytics' Methasoft, version 5.5; more may join the list.] Any **patient** at an OTP using D-ATM can enroll by signing the OTP's D-ATM consent form and having a finger scan. Participation is voluntary.

Contact Information

For background information, contact:

SAMHSA Task Order Officer

Telephone: 240-276-2715

E-mail: DATM@samhsa.hhs.gov

For technical information about D-ATM, contact:

Daksha Arora, Ph.D., CPHIT, Westat

Telephone: 240-314-2481

E-mail: DakshaArora@Westat.com

D-ATM website

<http://www.datm.samhsa.gov>

Reducing the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

