



Adventist Health and Rideout Emergency Department has been selected to participate in the California Bridge Program. This program will develop our Emergency Department into a low-threshold access point for treatment of individuals with Opioid Use Disorder. We aim to “meet patients where they are at” by identifying ED patients with substance use disorders, immediately starting treatment, and providing a warm hand-off into continued outpatient treatment.

Some background on the severity of the Opioid Crisis in our area: according to the California Department of Public Health, the rate of emergency room visits for all drug overdoses by Sutter County residents (166.17 per 100,000 residents) was 41 percent higher than the state average (117.28 per 100,000), and the rate of emergency room visits for all drug overdoses by Yuba County (150.4 per 100,000) residents was 28 percent higher than the statewide average in 2017. The death rate from overdoses in Yuba County exceeded the statewide average, while Sutter County’s was below the statewide average.

Our ED providers will be trained to treat opioid withdrawal with the effective and safe medication buprenorphine (brand name Suboxone). This medication is part of an evidence-based approach to treating Opioid Use Disorder called Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT). MAT combines medication with counseling to treat individuals with the chronic illness of Opioid Use Disorder.

We have hired an experienced, full-time Substance Use Navigator, Mr. Todd O’Berg, who will be working in our Emergency Department to link patients into continued outpatient treatment. There are many barriers to accessing treatment (transportation, financial, health insurance, motivation, etc), and he will work to overcome these barriers and obtain an urgent follow-up appointment for these patients. He will act as a counselor and champion for these individuals by supporting them through every step towards successful treatment.

We have partnered with several MAT treatment centers and primary care clinics in the area already in order to have many options available for our patients to continue treatment after they leave the ED. We would like to partner with *every* location where patients access healthcare in order to create a strong community network for team-based treatment and referral. Please reach out to us if you have any questions or would like to partner with our ED to help patients better access care for substance use disorders.

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