

# Treating Addiction in the Primary Care Setting: Medication Assisted Therapies

Ako Jacintho, MD  
Medical Director

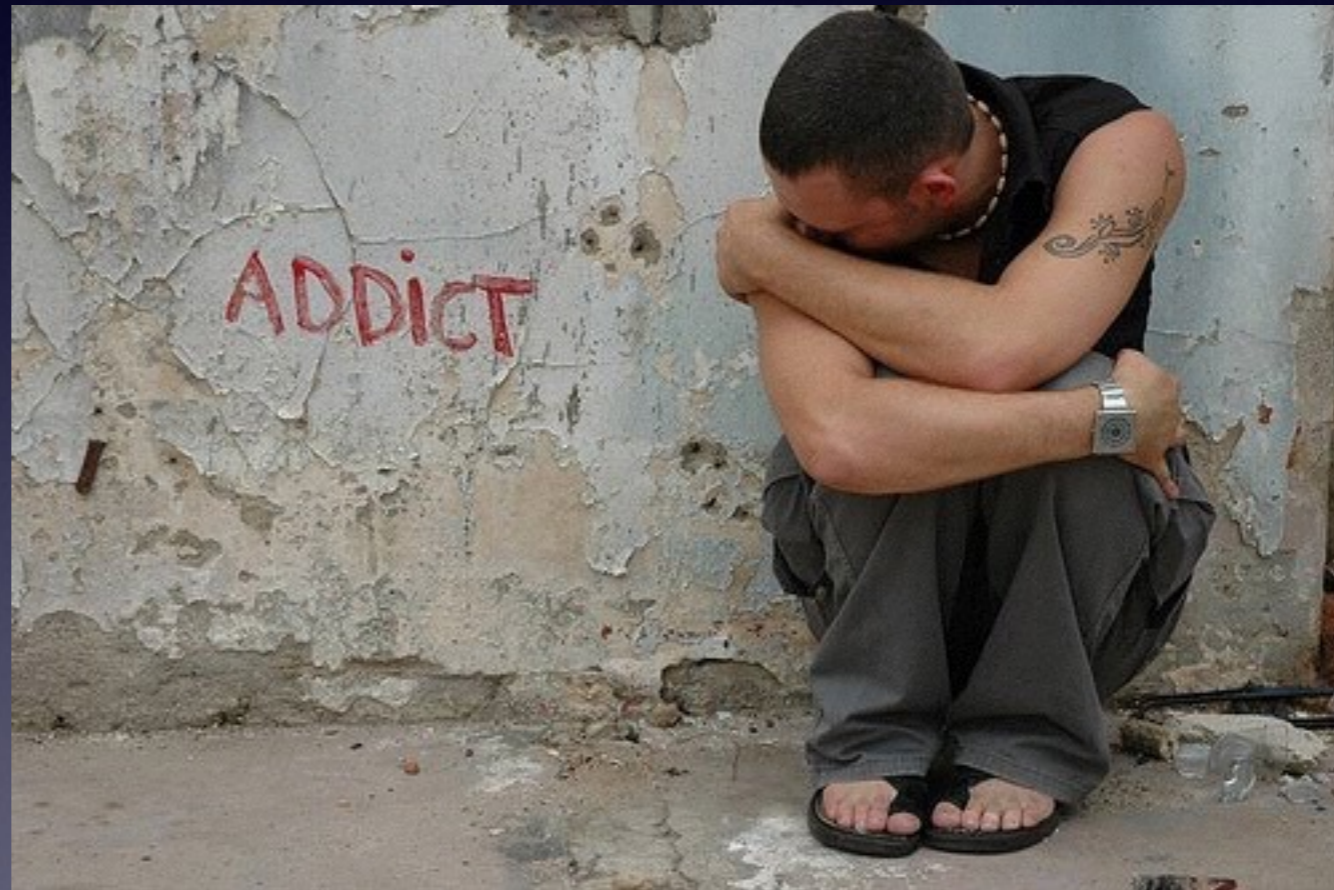
Haight Ashbury Medical Clinics, A Program of HealthRIGHT 360

# Agenda

- My First Patient
- Explaining Addiction to patients: Biomedical Model of Addiction
- When do providers encounter addiction in practice?
- Provider buy-in: Medication Assisted Therapy treatment in primary care
- Opiate Use Disorder Treatment with Buprenorphine
- Primary Care practice management with Buprenorphine: My story past and present
- Impact

# My First Patient

- Shame and isolation
- Lack of control
- Wanted to quit
- Wasting time
- Cravings
- Interfering with work
- Relationship problems
- Stopped hobbies
- Body/mind harm
- Needed more than before
- Started to feel sick without it



# How do you explain the disease of Addiction to your patient ? The Biomedical Model.

- Chronic Illness, like DM and HTN
- Causes - Chance, Dopamine
- Dopamine? - acute component of illness
- Withdrawal & Memory - chronic components of illness
- Relapse-Remitting Illness
- Medication Assisted Therapies



# When do providers encounter addiction?

- When we treat pain and the Utox comes back positive for cocaine
- Family member reveals that patient uses substances
- Patient was jailed for drug related crime
- DUI
- Negotiating pain meds for compliance and retention in care
- Patients present with symptoms of mood disorders

# Challenges to getting providers to use MAT

- Lack of training on SUD/Addiction to adequately treat
- Time constraints in clinic, lack of ancillary staff, no BH integration or connection
- Not educated about medical assisted therapies
- DEA/DOJ oversight
- Don't want those patients on my panel or waiting room
- Medication Assisted therapy is trading one addiction for another and I don't want to do that



# Treating with Medication Assisted Therapy

- Who qualifies? Talking to patients about how it works, expectations
- When do you bring them back? How often do they return?
- Urine Drug screens in treatment.
- NA/AA groups, therapists
- CURES
- Treatment success vs failure
- End goal for provider and patient



# The Journey

Primary care and Addiction



# Impact of PCPs treating addiction

- Patients feel relief
- Broaden the relationship with your patient
- Get patients out of isolation and provide hope
- Belief
- Re-engage in primary care!

