

# Harm Reduction in Acute Care Settings

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# Disclosure Information

## Broadening Perspectives to Narrow the Treatment Gap

Friday, April 5, 2024

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No financial disclosures

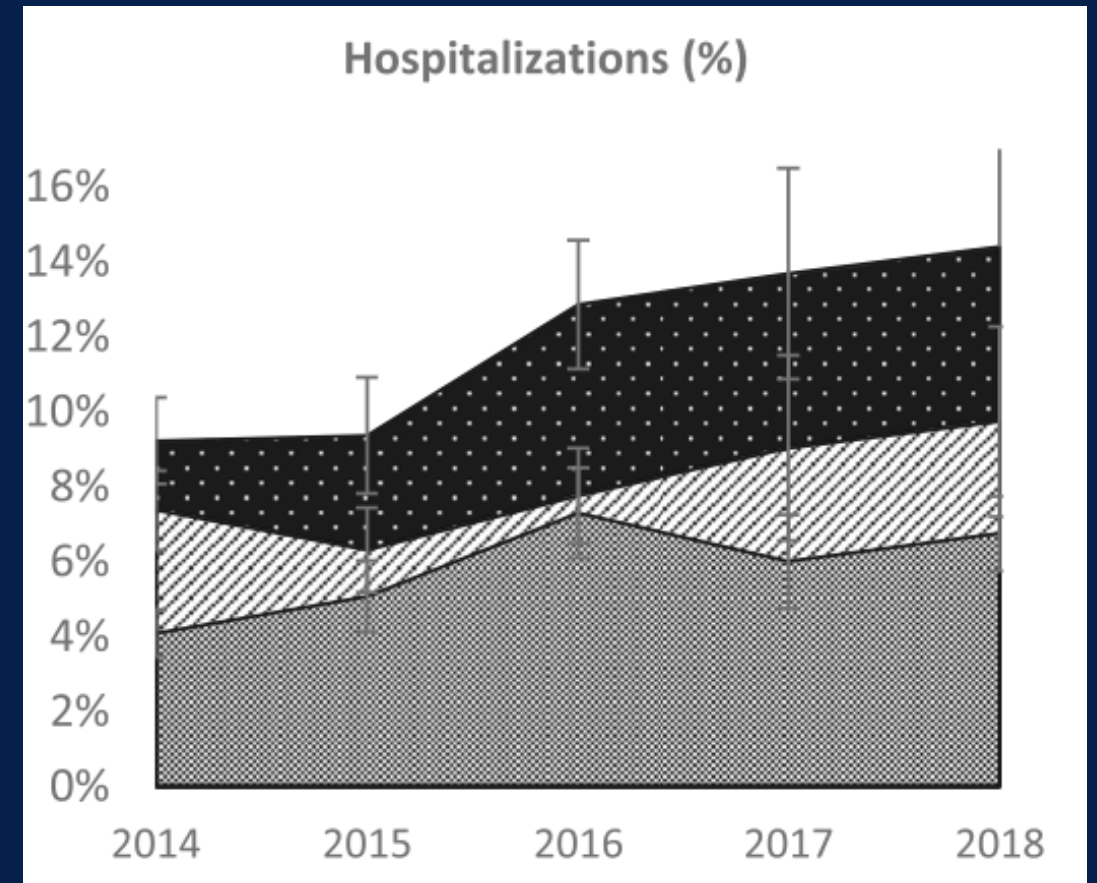


# Learning Objectives

- ☀ Describe one hospital's approach to incorporating harm reduction in the acute care setting.

# SUD is Prevalent in Acute Care Settings

- ☀ 1 in 9 hospitalizations
- ☀ 12-month mortality after hospital discharge is 7.8%
- ☀ \$13.2 billion/year on acute care visits involving SUD



# Benefits of Treating SUD During Hospitalization

PATIENT

HEALTHCARE SYSTEM

Pivotal  
Touch  
Point

King C, JAM 2022. Velez CM, JGIM 2017. Wakeman SE, JGIM 2017. Wei J, JGIM 2015. Englander H, JHM 2018. Wilson JD, JGIM 2022. Kimmel SD, JAMA Network Open, 2020. Lewer D, Addiction 2020.

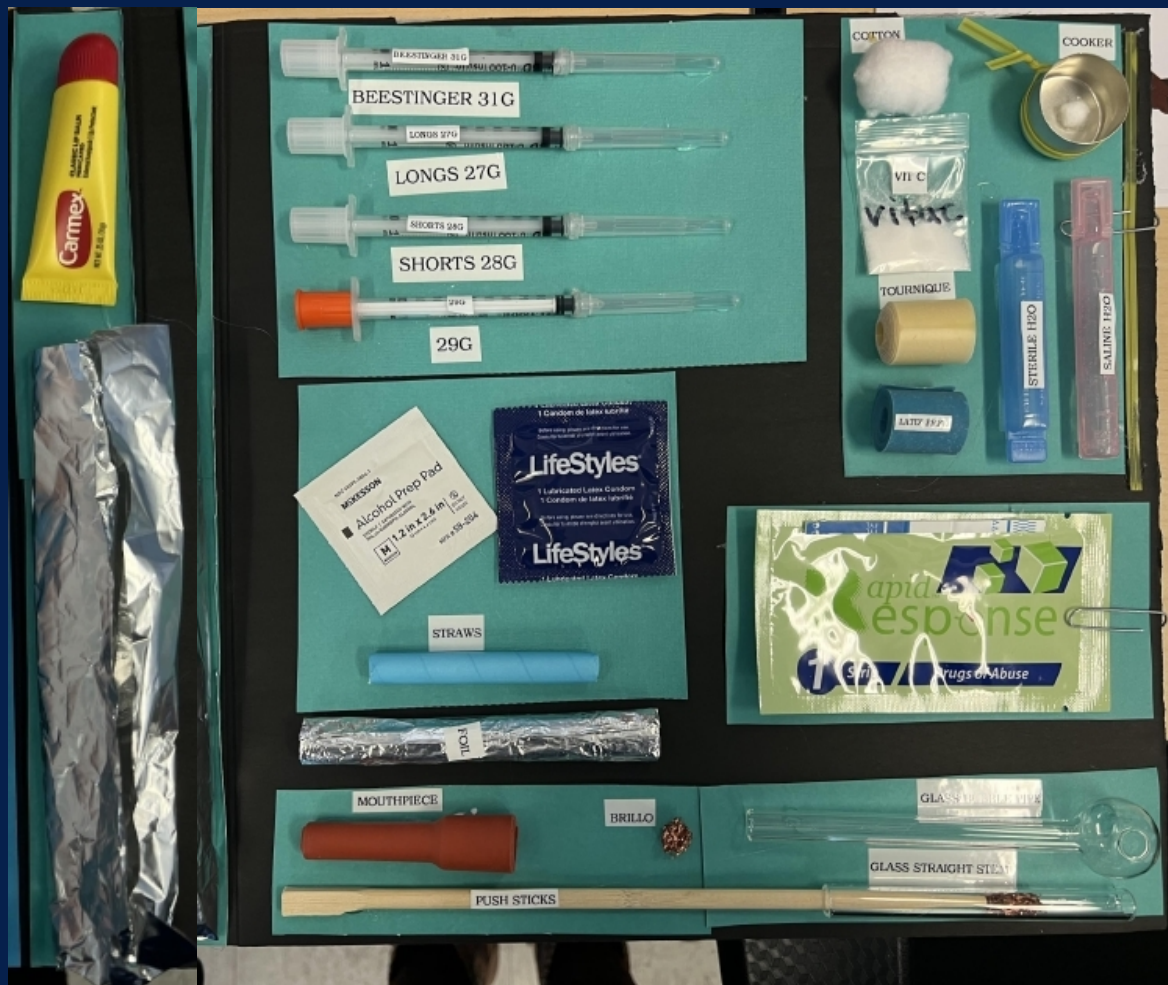


# Person- Centered Substance Use Care



*Velez CM, JGIM 2017. Englander H, JHM 2018. Hoover K, JSAT 2022. Calcaterra SL, J Hosp Med 2022. Hyshka E, DAD 2019.*

# Hospital-Based Harm Reduction



Overdose prevention

Education

Safer Use Supplies

Person-Centered, Stigma-Free Care

**Meeting people where they are: implementing hospital-based substance use harm reduction**

[Rachel Perera](#), [Louise Stephan](#), [Ayesha Appa](#), [Ro Giuliano](#), [Robert Hoffman](#), [Paula Lum](#) & [Marlene Martin](#)

[✉](#)

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# Hospital-Based Harm Reduction

“They were not judgmental; they were not expecting me to say things that would lead me to failure... which has been my experience in the past.... Can you imagine how many people or how many lives we could save if there was not this kind of barrier?”

*-Person who uses methamphetamine*

## Impacts of our Harm Reduction Intervention:

- ☀ **Increased access** to education and supplies, especially for marginalized populations
- ☀ **Rebuilt trust** by improving care experience
- ☀ Catalyzed **culture change** and destigmatization

## Challenges:

- ☀ **Hesitancy** regarding legality
- ☀ Limited **SUD education** among staff
- ☀ Remaining **stigma**
- ☀ Careful assessment of **patient goals**



# Incorporate Harm Reduction Practices in your Healthcare Setting

Offer Addiction  
Treatment

Safer Use Techniques:  
Injection Practices

Overdose Prevention  
Education:  
Buddy System, Stagger  
Use, Test Doses

**Never Use Alone  
Lifeline  
877-696-1996**

Use Person-First,  
Non-Stigmatizing  
Language

Provide Naloxone

Offer Safer-Use  
Supplies:  
Fentanyl Test Strips,  
Needles, etc

Help Patients Tolerate  
Hospitalization



*National Harm Reduction Coalition, HIV and Injection Drug Use, Vital Signs, 2016. Fernandes RM, BMC PH 2017. Rachlis BS, HRJ 2009. Logan DE, Journal of Clin Psychology 2010. Perera R, HRJ 2022. Hyshka E, Drug Alcohol Depend, 2019.*

*<https://safersubstanceuse.org/>*

# Broaden Perspectives to Narrow the Treatment Gap



**87% of people with OUD are not  
on a medication for OUD**

**MORTALITY**

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