

# Clinic-based Treatment for Opioid Dependence: A Qualitative Inquiry

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**Objectives:** To identify barriers and facilitators to treatment of opioid dependence in primary care clinics. **Methods:** In-depth interviews with 27 New York State clinic directors. **Results:** Stigmatizing attitudes emerged as a major barrier. Respondents often viewed opioid-dependent persons as manipulative, demanding, and disruptive. Commonly cited facilitators were physician training, increased office staffing, and greater mental health, social ser-

vices, and addictions support. **Conclusions:** Our study reveals attitudinal barriers to address and supportive factors to promote in order to increase the limited availability of office-based treatment of opioid dependence in the United States compared with other countries.

**Key words:** substance abuse treatment, drug users, primary care, opioid dependence, buprenorphine

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