



Peer Recovery Support Specialists: Vital members of the care team for reaching and treating patients with substance use disorders.

Peer Recovery Support Specialists are non-clinical members of the care team who have lived experience, are in recovery, and complete an extensive certification process. They offer knowledge and share resources. Peer recovery support specialists often serve as “culture brokers” by building patient trust and assisting to translate care plans. Connecting a patient with peer support during hospitalization has been shown to improve patient-centered care, promote patient participation in the plan of care, and de-escalate crises.*

PRSS’s may be the missing link to providing high-quality, effective, and compassionate care for patients with substance use disorders.

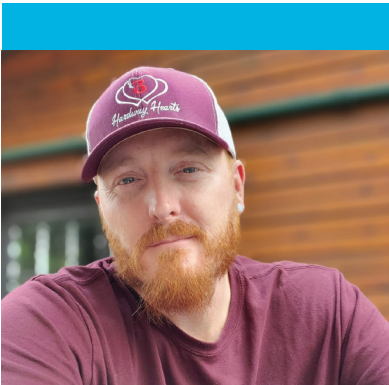
HAVE YOU EVER STRUGGLED WITH ANY OF THE FOLLOWING?

- Connecting with a patient who has a substance use disorder?
- Communicating the potential harm to a patient’s health caused by substance use and the clinical reasoning of recovery or harm reduction?
- Managing the plan of care for a patient who desires to leave the hospital or who may have behavioral challenges during hospitalization?
- Developing a meaningful post-discharge plan for patients with substance use disorders?

A peer recovery support specialist can help!

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Adapted from Collins, Alla, Nicolaidis, et al. J Gen Int Med. Dec 2019.



Peer Recovery Support Services are now a standard part of the B-Team for patients with an opioid use disorder, and is also available for other substance use disorder diagnoses by contacting the psychiatry service or unit social worker.

Slade Skaggs is a certified peer recovery support specialist for patients receiving care at Dell Seton Medical Center. Slade became a PRSS after receiving Peer Support himself when he began his long-term recovery in 2016.

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WHAT IS A PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST?

- A Peer Recovery Support Specialist is someone in recovery who shares their experience and walks side by side with patients as they determine their own path of recovery.
- Peer Recovery Support Specialist can help connect patients with resources and support, including communities of other people in recovery who can also provide support.



WHAT SERVICES DOES A PEER RECOVERY SUPPORT SPECIALIST OFFER?

- Answers questions and develops a rapport with the patient to facilitate goal setting and recovery planning.
- Assists the patient and family members in navigating the recovery service system and developing an ongoing support network.
- Serves as a role model and mentor for successful recovery, identifying unhealthy behaviors, and providing advice or accountability.
- Provides overdose prevention and harm-reduction education.

The Buprenorphine Team (B-Team) is a group of doctors, nurses, and other healthcare workers who give patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) the opportunity to start medication to treat opioid use disorder while in the hospital. The B-Team partners with local clinics and peer recovery organizations for continued support after patients leave the hospital.