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192. Research Priorities for Intentional Overdoses: An Approach to Advance Medical Toxicology Research Through Patient Engagement

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Background: Medical toxicologists are experts in treating patients who intentionally overdose, but medical toxicology research has not routinely engaged patients for patient-centered outcomes research (PCOR).

Research Question: What are five research priorities for intentional overdoses from a patient-centered perspective?

Methods: A total of nine patient experts were recruited by medical toxicologists, community partners and stakeholders (e.g., American Foundation for Suicide Prevention and the Addiction Policy Forum). Patient engagement strategies and material were developed in partnership with the University of South Carolina Patient Engagement Studio. After introductory one-on-one sessions, patient experts shared their stories in a group listening session with the project team. Eight research priorities were drafted and sent to the patient experts and medical toxicology researchers for feedback. An interactive session (open to all interested medical toxicology researchers) was held to discuss and finalize these research priorities with the patient experts. A post-session survey resulted in the selection of the top five research priorities.

Results: Thirteen participants (seven patient experts, three team members, and two medical toxicology researchers) responded to the post-session survey. The top five research priorities included: 1) Examine the impact of engaging peer recovery coaches/peer recovery support specialists early in the patient's care post-overdose; 2) Develop and test interventions that can be implemented through an interdisciplinary group (e.g., medical toxicologists, peer specialists) to improve post-overdose care; 3) Examine how to provide caregivers with resources post-overdose for adolescents; 4) Develop culturally appropriate questions for medical toxicologists (and other providers) to systematically understand the patient's background, history, overdose intent, and current experiences; and 5) Develop interventions and policies that reduce stigma/bias for those who intentionally overdose.

Conclusion: Research priorities from patient perspectives on intentional overdose were developed. This partnership with patient experts, stakeholders, and project team members is a foundation for future medical toxicology PCOR.