

## Long-acting buprenorphine injection treatment of opioid dependence in a Medically Supervised Injecting Room

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**Introduction / Issues:** The Medically supervised injecting room (MSIR) provides services for a highly marginalised population of people who inject drugs, predominantly heroin. In 2019, on-site administration of long-acting injectable buprenorphine commenced in the on-site clinic, in what is believed to be the world's first injecting room / LAIB model. Early experiences of the first 41 people treated with LAIB (Weeks, 2021) showed good uptake of LAIB, retention in treatment and reduction in heroin use. To date, more than 250 MSIR clients have initiated LAIB in the MSIR clinic. To meet the needs of this population, treatment is offered in a trauma informed way, with a flexible model of service delivery.

**Method / Approach:** A file audit of NRCH records was conducted of all people commenced on long-acting buprenorphine between September 2019 and April 2021. Retention was determined as treatment status at the end July 2021.

**Key Findings:** Up until the end of April 2021, 220 clients commenced LAIB. At 3 months, 79% remain in treatment and at 18 months 44% are in treatment at the MSIR clinic. In addition, a proportion have transitioned to treatment elsewhere. This presentation will outline the MSIR LAIB model of care, and preliminary data on treatment outcomes

**Discussions and Conclusions:** The high rate of retention in treatment supports the use of LAIB in this population, and the value of flexible service delivery models in retaining a marginalised population in treatment.

**Implications for Practice or Policy:** Marginalised populations can be attracted to initiate and remain in opioid pharmacotherapy when services are accessible and delivered in a trauma-informed way.

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