How to use motivational interviewing to improve addiction care

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During the COVID-19 pandemic it is important that physicians and other health professionals continue to provide access to the most up-to-date, evidence-base best practices in addiction medicine. This means completing continuing medical education (CME) to enhance professional development and improve patient care and outcomes. One way to do this is through education from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), which is now featured on the AMA Ed Hub™.

While many educational conferences have been cancelled or postponed due to COVID-19, the AMA Ed Hub offers CME and maintenance of certification, curated education and multimedia available at any time. This helps to ensure physicians and medical professionals can stay current while continuously improving the care they provide their patients.

“We developed the AMA Ed Hub to ensure that physicians and their care teams have a more robust and more streamlined way to fulfill their lifelong learning at every stage of their career,” said AMA President Susan R. Bailey, MD. “We will continue to enhance the platform by adding new content and features that will not only help them keep current in their practice of medicine, but also help them reduce administrative burdens and improve health outcomes.”

Through the AMA Ed Hub, ASAM offers CME to help care teams in a variety of treatment settings enhance clinical care while focusing on the full spectrum of addiction medicine: prevention, treatment, remission and recovery.

Enhancing patient interactions

The AMA Ed Hub currently features the CME module “Talking to Patients About Health Risk Behaviors,” an enduring material developed by Medscape in collaboration with several investigators supported by the National Institute of Drug Abuse (NIDA) Clinical Trials Network. This activity is designated by the AMA for a maximum of 1.5 AMA PRA Category 1 Credit


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Physicians and other health professionals will learn how to:

- Identify the major elements of motivational interviewing.
- Identify opportunities to use principles of motivational interviewing in patient encounters.
- Plan appropriate responses based on patients’ descriptions of challenges and opportunities for change.

This is a highly interactive and self-paced activity that takes a case-based approach to helping physicians and other health professionals learn about motivational interviewing. The module begins with the major elements of motivational interviewing, followed by a case to help identify opportunities to use these principles in patient encounters. Lastly, physicians and other medical professionals will plan appropriate responses based on patients’ descriptions of challenges and opportunities for change.

ASAM represents over 6,500 physicians and other health professionals in the field of addiction medicine. As an organization, ASAM is dedicated to increasing access and improving the quality of addiction treatment, educating physicians and the public, supporting research and prevention, and promoting the appropriate role of doctors in the care of patients with addiction.

The Talking to Patients About Health Risk Behaviors module is part of the AMA Ed Hub, an online learning platform with top-quality CME and education that supports the professional development needs of physicians and other health professionals. With trending topics relevant to you, it also offers an easy, streamlined way to find, take, track and report educational activities in one place—with automatic CME credit reporting for some state and specialty medical boards.