



Request for Proposal: Comparative Outcomes Research for Medication-Assisted vs. Abstinence-Based Treatment

Project Overview: The Conquer Addiction Research Institute (CARI) is interested in seeking competitive bids for during-treatment and post-treatment outcomes research for patients attending a variety of medication-assisted and abstinence-based addiction treatment programs. CARI's objective is to be able to compare the results of similarly-conducted outcomes research among patients attending MAT and abstinence-based treatment facilities to determine the treatment modalities most likely to be effective for individual patients according to their drug use histories and demographic profiles.

Company Background: Conquer Addiction, Inc. is a 501(c)3 nonprofit with a mission to help more individuals recover from addiction. The organization's [Board of Directors](#) launched the Conquer Addiction Research Institute in October 2021 for the purpose of conducting research to improve clinical outcomes for SUD patients. This comparative outcomes research project is CARI's first research project.

Scope of Work: Provide real-time monitoring of thousands of patients attending 8+ different MAT treatment facilities during treatment, and follow up with a random selection of patients at multiple points during their first post-discharge year to determine the following:

- Whether they're meeting their drug and alcohol-related treatment goals
- The impact treatment is having/has had on their quality of life, including where they're living and whether they're gainfully employed or going to school
- The impact treatment is having/has had on their emotional health

Compare the results for patients attending medication-assisted treatment facilities with comparable data for patients attending abstinence-based treatment facilities.

Project Budget: \$250,000 has been committed for Phase One of this project. We anticipate further increases in this funding.

Project Timeline: The desired project timeline is as follows:

Initiation of research:

January - March 2022: First 2 MAT programs start enrolling patients

April - June 2022: Next 6 MAT programs start enrolling patients

Research reports:

Sept. 30, 2022: Year 1 Summary (including comparison of 6 month MAT results with 6 month post-treatment abstinence-based results)

Sept. 30, 2023: Year 2 Summary (including comparison of 12 month MAT results with 12 month post-treatment abstinence-based results)

Submission Requirements: Research companies bidding on this project need to submit the following:

1. Describe how you will meet the following requirements:
 - a. Promise patients confidentiality and be conducted either by an independent research company or by members of an internal research group with no responsibility for patient care
 - b. Collect responses directly from the patient following a standardized script, including data collection method (e.g., electronic, telephonic, face to face), participant tracking procedures, and historic follow-up rates
 - c. Reports post-treatment follow-up data on patients in abstinence-based treatment at six months and twelve months post-discharge
 - d. Reports whether patients have abstained from all non-prescribed drugs and alcohol for at least the last 30 days (or, for harm reduction programs, have met their self-defined drug and alcohol-related treatment goals for at least the last 30 days) at each of these periods
 - e. Receives responses from at least 40% of patients at both of these time periods
 - f. Tracks patient usage during- and after-treatment of the following medications:
 - i. Methadone
 - ii. Buprenorphine (including Subutex)
 - iii. Suboxone, Zubsolv or other buprenorphine/naloxone medication
 - iv. Sublocade, Probuphine or other extended-release buprenorphine options
 - v. Vivitrol or other extended-release naltrexone injections or implants
 - vi. Naltrexone
 - vii. Campral
 - viii. Antabuse
 - g. Please describe how you propose to measure outcomes in the following key domains:
 - i. Employment/education
 - ii. Family functioning
 - iii. Criminal justice involvement
 - iv. Physical/behavioral health
 - v. Housing
2. A detailed description of how patients will be monitored during treatment, including:
 - a. Available assessments, and how assessments are chosen for each patient
 - b. How frequently assessments are updated
 - c. Proposed data collection method(s) (e.g., electronic, telephonic, face to face) for progress monitoring while in treatment.
 - d. How patient information is provided to clinicians

- e. Aggregated metrics available to center management
 - f. Specific background information collected on each patient:
 - i. Demographic
 - ii. Drug use history
 - iii. Treatment history
 - iv. Treatment goals
 - v. Quality of life
 - vi. Current & previous use of medication-assisted treatment
3. A detailed description of how patients are monitored after discharge from treatment, including:
- a. How patients are selected for monitoring
 - b. At what post-discharge periods patients are contacted
 - c. How patients are contacted & incentivized to respond post-treatment
 - d. Your research company's success contacting patients after discharge (including number of patients you've attempted to contact & actual response rates at various post-discharge time periods)
 - e. The specific information being collected from patients post-treatment
4. A comprehensive report detailing your outcomes research results to date that the CARI-funded research results will be able to be compared to.
5. Explain how you propose to account for the differences in length of stay between abstinence-based and medication-assisted treatment centers as well as differences between goals (e.g., abstinence versus harm reduction).
6. Ownership of the data you collect, including whether treatment programs or others have to right to withdraw their data or refuse to allow it to be published in aggregate totals.
7. Pricing: Describe what you will charge Conquer Addiction and participating treatment centers for each of the following research components:
- a. Monthly charge for monitoring the progress of 500-1000 patients attending treatment at a medication-assisted treatment facility
 - b. Per patient charge for conducting outcomes research throughout the post-treatment year
 - c. Charge for each of the research report summaries
 - d. Project start-up costs

Submission Contact Information and Deadline: Proposals must be emailed to Dr. Thomas Doub, Chair of Conquer Addiction's MAT Research Selection Committee, no later than 11:59 p.m. on Friday, January 21, 2021. Questions about the project or the RFP as well as the final submissions should be emailed to thomas.w.doub@vumc.org.