



The 4 Aims

The purpose of NIATx is to improve access to and retention in addiction treatment, while making process improvement part of the culture of managing and delivering treatment. This orientation toward improving the process of care, as well as cultural change, was developed from clearly identifiable needs:

- The need to get more people into treatment using existing resources;
- The recognition that organizational barriers play a significant role in limiting access to treatment;
- The need to reduce the field's high rates of premature drop-out from treatment;
- The need for the addiction field to become more skilled at improving delivery of services; and
- The need to support and improve the infrastructure required to effectively deliver services.

These needs led to the development of the **four aims of NIATx**:

Reduce waiting time between first request for service and first treatment session;

Reduce the number of patients who do not keep an appointment;

Increase the number of people admitted to treatment; and

Increase the period that patients stay engaged in treatment.

Meeting the Project *Aims*

 *Reduce Waiting Times*

 *Reduce No-Shows*

 *Increase Admissions*

 *Increase Continuation Rates*

The decision to focus on these four aims is based largely on research of the Washington Circle, a multi-disciplinary group of providers, researchers, managed care representatives and public policy makers. This group developed and pilot tested a core set of performance measures for addiction treatment services. Their research shows that access to and retention in treatment are the greatest predictors of successful recovery. Therefore, the four NIATx aims are ways providers can effectively plan for, institute, and measure improvements in patient access to and retention in treatment.

The four aims are designed to help NIATx member organizations reach two long-term goals: increasing the capacity of treatment organizations to improve; and improving the organization's bottom line. The implication is that by making improvements around each of the four aims, organizations will become more efficient financially, and will gain skills leading to greater organizational improvements. Therefore, their improvements will be sustained, and the provider agencies should also become more financially stable.

For more information about NIATx, please contact us at:

NIATx National Program Office
Mechanical Engineering, Room 4121
(608) 263-0063, info@niatx.net
www.NIATx.net

Reduce Waiting & No-Shows • Increase Admissions & Continuation

NIATx is a partnership supported by The Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration
www.NIATx.net

©2005, University of Wisconsin-Madison. All rights reserved.