

## **The role of patient satisfaction in methadone treatment**

*Background:* Patient satisfaction surveys, widely used in health care delivery systems, may provide useful data for improving patient retention and outcomes. *Objectives:* This study examined the relationship between methadone patients' treatment satisfaction at three months post-admission and their 3-month treatment outcomes and 12-month treatment retention.

*Methods:* New methadone treatment admissions ( $N = 283$ ) were assessed at 3 months post-admission for satisfaction with their counselors and programs. Correlations examined the relationship between 3-month satisfaction and Addiction Severity Index (ASI) scores. Regression analysis assessed the relationship between satisfaction and drug testing at 3 months and was used to predict whether participants were retained in treatment at 12 months.

*Results:* Participants who were more satisfied with their counselors and programs had lower Drug and Legal ASI composite scores at 3 months. Participants who were more satisfied with their programs remained in treatment for at least 12 months. *Conclusions:* Treatment programs should consider administering the CEF to their patients at 3 months post-admission to identify patients with low satisfaction scores whomay be at risk for prematurely leaving treatment. *Scientific Significance:* Measuring patient satisfaction during treatment may help programs meet patients' needs and improve retention.