



# Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine

*A Chapter of American Society of Addiction Medicine*

## **About the Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine (WISAM)**

The Wisconsin Society of Addiction Medicine (WISAM) represents over 150 physicians and clinicians in the state who specialize in the treatment of substance use disorders (SUD) and addiction, as well as providers with a strong interest in learning about and advancing the addiction medicine field. WISAM is a state chapter of the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM), the nation's oldest and largest medical specialty organization representing more than 5,500 physicians and clinicians with this specialty. WISAM and ASAM are dedicated to increasing access to and improving the quality of addiction treatment; education regarding the disease of addiction; supporting research and prevention; and promoting the appropriate role of physicians in the care of patients with addiction. In 2020, WISAM was able to train over 350 individuals through the Buprenorphine X-Waiver Training Series, which will continue for a third year with eight virtual training sessions in 2021. This series is designed to increase treatment capacity for opioid use disorders by training more prescribers to be able to prescribe Buprenorphine. WISAM also hosts the monthly Open Exchange: free teleconference calls, open to all Wisconsin clinicians, both members and non-members, on the fourth Thursday of the month (7:00-8:00 p.m.); please email [wisam@badgerbay.co](mailto:wisam@badgerbay.co) to be added to the mailing list about this event. WISAM will also host its Virtual Conference on October 15-16, 2021.

## **What is an Addiction Medicine Specialist?**

An Addiction Medicine Specialist is a physician concerned with the prevention, evaluation, diagnosis, treatment, and recovery of persons with the disease of addiction, of those with substance-related health conditions, and of people who show unhealthy use of substances including nicotine, alcohol, prescription medications, and other licit and illicit drugs. Physicians in this subspecialty also help family members whose health and functioning are affected by a loved one's substance use or addiction. In March 2016, the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM) recognized addiction medicine as a new subspecialty under the American Board of Preventive Medicine (ABPM), which administers the board exam.

## **WISAM and ASAM Legislative Response to the Opioid Epidemic**

As the nation and Wisconsin continue to be significantly impacted by the opioid addiction and overdose epidemic, WISAM and ASAM want to ensure patients in the state can access and receive high-quality, evidence-based, and comprehensive addiction treatment. Our legislative priorities we would like the Wisconsin state legislature to consider are:

- **Prevention:** Support the promotion and funding of prescriber education, and enhanced capabilities and use of the state PDMP to identify patients with SUD. Advocate for additional funding for educational and environmental policy change for effective prevention programs.
- **Treatment:** Promote state legislation that codifies and enforces the federal parity law at the state level, as well as support and equip insurance commissioners to undertake market conduct exams and plan audits. Advocate for expanded access to pharmacotherapies and psychosocial treatments for addiction and educate policymakers and pharmacists on medication-assisted treatment. Support increased funding and implementation of Addiction Medicine residency and fellowship programs.
- **Harm Reduction/Criminal Justice Reform:** Advocate for authorization of syringe exchange programs and increased access to naloxone through enhanced access and expanded Good Samaritan legislation. Support criminal justice diversion programs and Drug Courts that allow for all evidence-based treatment options.