



AHRQ Integration Academy

<https://integrationacademy.ahrq.gov/>

Introducing the AHRQ Integration Academy

What is it? A robust website of resources to support integration of behavioral health with primary and ambulatory care settings, with a key focus on providing care for patients in mental health conditions and substance use disorder, including opioids.

Who is it for? Clinicians, practices, delivery systems, health plans, patients, communities, researchers and policymakers who want to understand, implement, or improve the integration of behavioral health and primary care.

Who guides the Academy? The National Integration Academy Council (NIAC), an expert panel of clinicians, patients and leaders in the integration of primary and behavioral health care.



What is integrated behavioral health?

A practice team of primary care and behavioral health clinicians working together with patients and families, using a systematic and cost-effective approach to provide patient-centered care for a defined population.

This care may address mental health and substance use conditions, health behaviors (including their contribution to chronic medical illnesses), life stressors and crises, stress-related physical symptoms, and ineffective patterns of health care utilization.

Why integrated behavioral health?

Research shows that integrated behavioral health improves health and patient experience, increases provider satisfaction, and reduces unnecessary costs in time, money, and delays.

What does the Integration Academy offer?

The Integration Academy organizes definitions, research, tools, measures, strategies, and lessons learned in integrated care and makes them freely available to everyone.

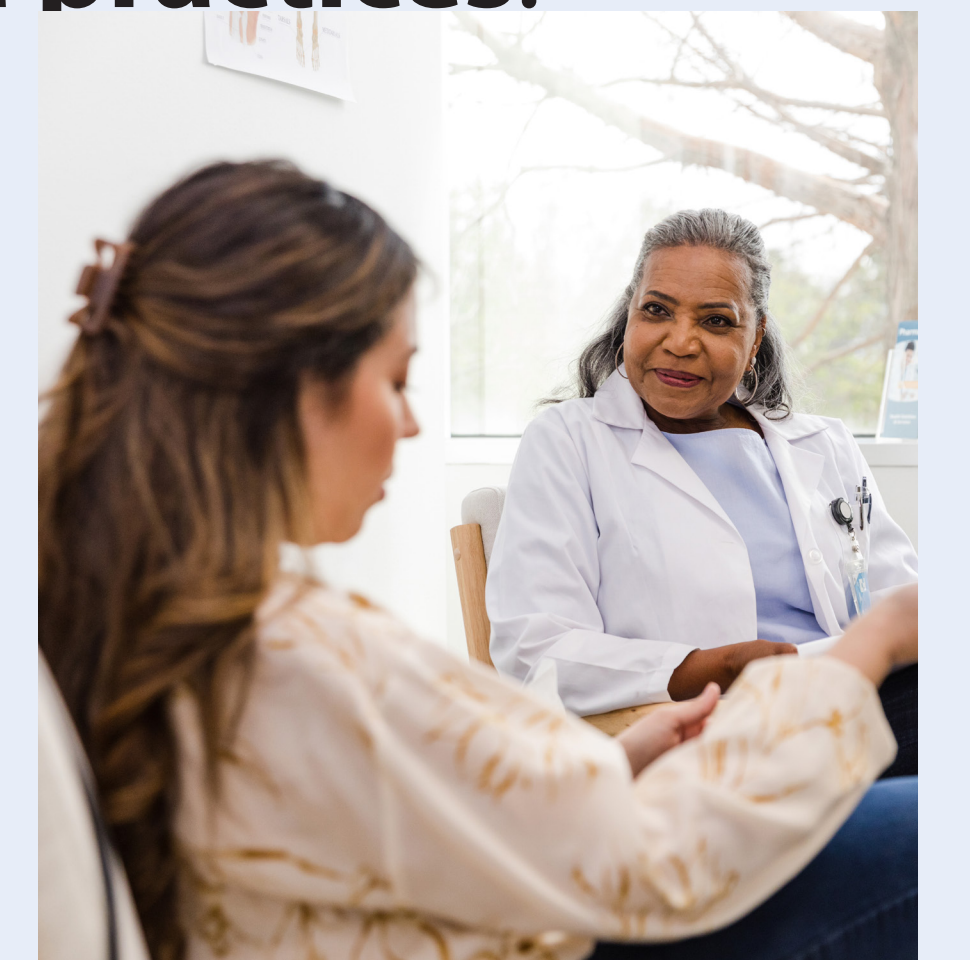
Evidence and best practices

Curated literature collection: Regularly updated, searchable collection of >9,000 peer-reviewed and grey literature references on the integration of behavioral health and primary care.

Targeted collection of tools and resources for integrated practices:

Substance use, unhealthy alcohol use, older adults (coming soon).

Topic briefs on current issues in integration: Telehealth, COVID-19, stimulant use disorders, polysubstance abuse, pregnancy and postpartum, health equity, mental health apps.



How-to resources

The Playbooks—online, self-guided manuals to help you imagine, design, and implement a locally tailored behavioral health integration program. The Integration Playbook walks practices through the steps of integration, with links to tools and resources for every step. The MAT Playbook offers specific guidance for integrating medications for opioid use disorder into primary care.

Professional practices and competencies

- Guidebook of lessons from exemplary practices.
- Literature reviews on clinician and practice competencies.
- A “**Lexicon**” of interlocking concepts that provides a functional definition of behavioral health integration, plus guidance on what to implement and what to do.

What next-generation research questions do you have about integration?

What do you need to know to take action? Contact us at academyportal@westat.com

For more information on the Integration Academy

Please visit the Integration Academy at the link. You can also sign up for the Academy Newsletter as a way to stay informed on the latest news, resources, and special Integration Academy features.

