

Have you heard about **KGH's Addictions Consult Service?**

START



SUBSTANCE TREATMENT AND REHABILITATION TEAM

What is START? We are a group of Addictions physicians from various backgrounds who are available to support patients with substance use disorders during their hospital stay.

When is START available? We are available Monday to Friday, from 9am to 4pm. We aim to see all consults within 24 hours, triaged depending on urgency and consult volumes.

Does START see non-admitted patients in the ED? If we have time, sure! Give us a call and ask.

How do I consult START? Physicians/learners can consult START by calling or paging the START MD on call. You can find us through switchboard, or using the On Call tool (look under Psychiatry → START)

What kinds of consults will START see? Reasons to consult START may include...

1. Management of substance withdrawal
2. Initiation of opioid agonist therapy (ex. methadone, buprenorphine) for opioid use disorder
3. Adjustment of methadone/buprenorphine doses in hospital
4. Initiation of anti-craving medications for alcohol use disorder
5. Brief counselling and referral to outpatient services
6. Harm reduction counselling
7. Help with diagnosing a substance use disorder

What consults will START not see? In general, START is unnecessary/inappropriate for...

1. Patients who are stable on methadone/buprenorphine and do not require dose changes
2. Patients who do not consent to seeing an Addictions physician
3. Patients on opioids for chronic pain without a concomitant substance use disorder

* START MDs will consider consults on a case-by-case basis. If in doubt, give us a call to discuss!

Does START provide outpatient services? Currently, START does not have the resources to follow patients in the community. However, we can help connect them with outpatient care at Street Health and other clinics and/or support their primary care provider via eConsults (OTN).

How can I learn more about START or Addictions Medicine at KHSC? Feel free to reach out to the START MD on call (see above) or email us at MHACSTARTeam@kingstonhsc.ca.