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Utility of Transdermal Alcohol Sensors During Community Re-Entry of AUD Patients

Proposal Abstract:

Over one million people receive treatment for alcohol use disorder (AUD) annually. Community re-entry following residential AUD treatment is a vulnerable time, with 67% of patients returning to use within 30 days of discharge. Identifying predictors of return to alcohol use during community re-entry is necessary to develop evidence-based tools to prevent and/or delay return to use. To evaluate these time-sensitive questions, we propose integration of data from ecological momentary assessment (EMA) and a transdermal alcohol sensor (Skyn). These methods capture data frequently (continuously for the Skyn), naturalistically, and in near-real-time. Using both EMA and the Skyn allows a complimentary window into alcohol use, including timestamp of alcohol initiation and alcohol intoxication, volume, and pace (Skyn) and predictors of alcohol use (EMA). This proposal is a first step in this innovative line of research. Findings will speak to acceptability/feasibility of alcohol monitoring with the Skyn during community re-entry. Individuals discharging from residential AUD treatment will complete a baseline interview (N=30); they will be trained to use EMA and fitted with a Skyn. For 30 days following discharge, they will complete daily EMA surveys; the Skyn will continuously collect alcohol data. Follow-up interviews at 30-days will capture data on Skyn acceptability.

Awarded: $20,000