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RESEARCH ARTICLE

Patient Satisfaction with Methadone Maintenance Treatment in Vietnam: A Comparison of Different Integrative-Service Delivery Models

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Abstract

Background

Patient satisfaction is an important component of quality in healthcare delivery. To inform the expansion of Methadone Maintenance Treatment (MMT) services in Vietnam, we examined the satisfaction of patients with regards to different services delivery models and identified its associated factors.

Methods

We interviewed 1,016 MMT patients at 5 clinics in Hanoi and Nam Dinh province. The modified SATIS instrument, a 10-item scale, was used to measure three dimensions: "Services quality and convenience", "Health workers' capacity and responsiveness" and "Inter-professional care".

Results

The average score was high across three SATIS dimensions. However, only one third of patients completely satisfied with general health services and treatment outcomes. Older age, higher education, having any problem in self-care and anxiety/depression were negatively associated with patient's satisfaction. Meanwhile, patients receiving MMT at clinics, where more comprehensive HIV and general health care services were available, were more likely to report a complete satisfaction.

Conclusion

Patients were highly satisfied with MMT services in Vietnam. However, treatment for drug users should go beyond methadone maintenance to address complicated health demands of drug users. Integrating MMT with comprehensive HIV and general health services



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together with improving the capacity of health workers and efficiency of services organisation to provide interconnected health care for drug users are critical for improving the outcomes of the MMT program.

Introduction

In Vietnam, HIV concentrated epidemic is mostly attributable to people who inject drug (PWID). It is estimated that there were 180,000 drug users and over 70% of them had a history of intravenous use[1–4]. A recent study shows that the prevalences of HIV and HCV among drug users were 35.1 and 88.8%, respectively[5]. Heroin is the most widely consumed (90%) drug in the country[4, 6, 7]. Methadone maintenance treatment (MMT) is considered a standard medication for drug abuse treatment[8]. Since its first introduction in 2008, to date, approximately 31.200 illicit drug users (DUs) has received MMT in 170 nationwide clinics [4, 6, 7, 9, 10]. With the strong political will, Vietnam government has a plan to scale-up the coverage of MMT program to 80.000 DUs in the following years[10]. However, this plan has to face a challenge from a rapid cut of financial aids from international donors[10]. To address this issue, strategies to reduce operational resources and optimize the efficiency are necessary to ensure the sustainability of MMT program. This requirement raises the need to understand the performance and quality of diverse MMT services in Vietnam.

Model to deliver MMT services may vary across settings such as stand-alone or integrating with other health care services[1]. The later model includes integrations of MMT with Provincial AIDS centers, Regional Polyclinic, and District Health Centers[1, 3]. To assess the performance of health services, self-reported information about patient experience and satisfaction play an indispensable role along with traditional health outcomes [11]. In particular, the patient satisfaction helps program managers to recognize the responsiveness of service delivery by measuring whether the patients' needs are tackled, identifying the gaps and reflecting the quality of environment or health staffs in clinics [12, 13]. Besides, in opioid dependence treatment, patient satisfaction may use to predict the retention, adherence, treatment outcome and risk of drug relapse [13–15]. Levels of satisfaction as well as their determinants varied across socio-economic factors, health status, characteristics of MMT clinics as well as dose of MMT [16–18]. Accordingly, MMT providers should learn to understand the characteristics of patient satisfaction in each setting, which is important to improve service delivery.

Currently, Vietnam has implemented MMT clinics in various models, including not only standalone- but also integrative- services. For example, MMT service may be co-located or combined with other HIV-related services such as antiretroviral treatment (ART) or HIV counselling and testing services (VCT). Likewise, it can be integrated with general health care service. However, in Vietnam, none of literature has mentioned the satisfaction of MMT patients for their attended clinics. Thus, the purpose of this paper was to examine the difference of satisfaction among MMT patients in various service delivery models and explore related factors.

Methods

Ethics approval

The protocol of this study was reviewed and approved by the Vietnam Authority of HIV/AIDS Control's Scientific Research Committee. Written informed consent was obtained from all



participants. Patients could withdraw at any time without the influence on their current treatment.

Study design and sampling technique

From January to August 2013, a cross-sectional survey was conducted in two Vietnamese HIV epicenters namely Hanoi and Nam Dinh. Five clinics were purposively selected in the study based on following criteria: 1) delivering MMT services; 2) representing both urban and rural areas, and 3) covering various levels of health system such as provincial- and district- levels. The detailed information of clinics is described in Table 1. It is important to notice that this study sample has a limited representativeness for the MMT patient population. We selected the two provinces in consultation with program managers at the Vietnam Authority of HIV/AIDS for a purposive comparison of an experienced setting—Hanoi and a new setting—Nam Dinh Province. Also the selection of MMT sites was primarily for the comparison of various service develvery models in different level of health administration.

We invited all patients who were present at seclected MMT clinics to participate in the study. The eligibility criteria: 1) presenting at clinics during study period; 2) being 18 years old or above; 3) having capacity to answer the questionnaire and 4) providing informed consent to participate.

Initially, patients were invited to a designated counseling room to ensure their privacy. Then, interviewer introduced the purposes of this study and the benefits to improving MMT program that in turn support the patients as they accepted to participate. Finally, we gave written informed consents to patients for signature. Data collection procedure was conducted within 15 to 30 minutes by well-trained researchers. There was none of MMT health staffs involving in this procedure. A total of 1,016 patients were recruited in the study.

Measures and instruments

A structured questionnaire was developed for data collection. The information of concern included socio-economic factors (age, gender, education, marital, religion and employment status), health status (including HIV status) and type of MMT models. Those variables were selected based on previous studies [16-18].

EQ-5D-5L instrument was used to measure health status. Its Vietnamese version was validated elsewhere [19]. This instrument includes five dimensions (mobility, self-care, usual activities, pain/discomfort, and anxiety/depression) with five response levels, from "No problem" to "Extremely problem" [19, 20]. We categorized people who reported "Slightly" to "Extremely" into "Having problem" group, while others classified "No problem".

To measure the patient satisfaction, we modified a previously developed instrument for Vietnamese settings, namely **Satisfaction with HIV/AIDS Treatment Interview Scale** (**SATIS**). This generic instrument was used to measure the satisfaction of patients for HIV/AIDS-related services. The procedure to develop this scale was described elsewhere [21]. Generally, SATIS includes 10 items with the range of options for response being from 0 to 10, where 0 indicated complete dissatisfaction and 10 indicated complete satisfaction. The scores of specific domains were computed by averaging the score of correspond items. The higher score means the higher level of satisfaction. Additionally, the instrument comprises two global ratings of overall satisfaction with health services and treatment outcomes. This instrument was used to measure the patient satisfaction for HIV-related service delivery models in Vietnam [21]. In this study, SATIS was speficified for MMT clinics and other quality features was asked for the MMT that patients were attending while the measure items' content, response options and scoring remained unchanged.



Table 1. Study settings and sample size.

Level	Settings	Site Name	Type of services	Sample size
Province	Nam Dinh City	Provincial AIDS Centre	MMT+ VCT	270
District (rural)	Xuan Truong District	District Health Centre	MMT+ VCT + ART + GH	151
District (urban)	Tu Liem District	District Health Centre	MMT+ VCT + ART + GH	201
District (urban)	Long Bien District	District Health Centre	MMT+ VCT + ART + GH	184
District (urban)	Ha Dong District	Regional Polyclinic	MMT+ GH	210

VCT: Voluntary HIV Counseling and Testing; ART: Antiretroviral Treatment; GH: General Health; MMT: Methadone Maintenance Treatment.

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Statistical analysis

In this study, we employed *exploratory factor analysis* (EFA) to explore the construct validity of the SATIS measurement. Principle component analysis was used to extract those factors. An eigenvalue of 0.35, where its curve flattened out, was selected as a threshold. The threshold was defined by the scree test. We used Orthogonal Varimax rotation with Kaisers' normalization to re-organize items in the scale, which aimed to increase the interpretability of these factors. A value of 0.55 was utilized to be a cut-off point for factor loadings. We also performed a cross-loading in one item and then assigned it to the appropriate domain based on both the nature of the question and the overarching dimension.

Cronbach's alpha was used to assess the internal consistency reliability of measurement. Chi-squared, t-test and ANOVA were used to explore the differences of satisfaction among characteristics. Multivariate linear and logistic regressions were employed to identify the associated factors with reclassified domains and general satisfaction. In this study, we applied a stepwise forward model strategy which using log-likelihood ratio test at a p-value of 0.1 to select variables for the reduced models [22]. A p-value < 0.05 was set as the level of statistical significance.

Results

Table 2 shows the socio-economic status and health status of the sample. Overall, the mean age of respondents was 35.8 (SD = 7.5). The majority of patients were male (98.7%), attaining secondary school or above (86.6%) and living with spouse (67.4%). Most of the patients were cult of ancestors (88.2%) and self-employed (53.4%). Regarding to health status, the proportion of respondents having HIV-positive status was 8.1%. When only 7.3%, 3.9% and 5.9% had problems in morbidity, self-care and usual activity, respectively, about one of five respondents had pain/discomfort and anxiety/depression problems (17.7% and 20.7%, correspondingly).

The construct validity of SATIS was displayed in <u>Table 3</u>. Three dimensions were reclassified from factor analysis namely "Services quality and convenience", "Health workers' capacity and responsiveness" and "Inter-professional care". Those dimensions accounted for 84.3% of the variance, of which the highest share of the variance belonged to the first dimension with 33.2%. Cronbach's alpha was excellent across domains with the range from 0.90 to 0.94.

Table 3 also showed that the proportion of patients completely satisfying was the highest in "Confidentiality" (60.8%) and "Responsiveness" (56.1%). Conversely, the proportion was the lowest in "Quality" (49.0%) and "Convenience" (51.1%). Additionally, the average score of each domain was high, with the highest in "Capacity of health workers & responsiveness" (9.20 ± 1.19).

The average scores of each item and domain regarding to MMT delivery models were illustrated in <u>Table 4</u>. Overall, the patient satisfaction for "MMT+VCT" models or "MMT+VCT



Table 2. Socio-economic characteristics and health status of respondents.

			N	MT+VCT+	ART+DGH						p-value
	MMT+VCT		Ru	ıral	Urban		MMT+RPC		All		
	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	
Age	36.8	7.3	36.8	8.0	36.4	7.9	37.0	7.5	35.8	7.5	0.83
	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	N	%	
Sex (Male)	266	98.5	151	100.0	206	98.1	380	98.7	1003	98.7	0.44
Educational attainment											
Illiterate	4	1.5	1	0.7	4	1.9	8	2.1	17	1.7	<0.01
Elementary	21	7.8	29	19.2	27	12.9	42	10.9	119	11.7	
Secondary	103	38.2	87	57.6	86	41.0	150	39.0	426	41.9	
High	121	44.8	28	18.5	81	38.6	157	40.8	387	38.1	
Vocational	12	4.4	5	3.3	7	3.3	8	2.1	32	3.2	
University	9	3.3	1	0.7	5	2.4	20	5.2	35	3.4	
Marital status											
Single	101	37.4	29	19.2	47	22.4	74	19.2	251	24.7	<0.01
Live with spouse	148	54.8	116	76.8	147	70.0	274	71.2	685	67.4	
Live with partner	0	0.0	0	0.0	1	0.5	2	0.5	3	0.3	
Divorced	19	7.0	6	4.0	15	7.1	32	8.3	72	7.1	
Widow	2	0.7	0	0.0	0	0.0	3	0.8	5	0.5	
Religion											
Cult of ancestors	247	91.5	96	63.6	198	94.3	355	92.2	896	88.2	<0.01
Buddhism	13	4.8	16	10.6	10	4.8	20	5.2	59	5.8	
Catholic	10	3.7	39	25.8	2	1.0	5	1.3	56	5.5	
Protestant	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	5	1.3	5	0.5	
Employment											
Unemployed	76	28.2	25	16.6	53	25.2	105	27.3	259	25.5	<0.01
Self-employed	159	58.9	67	44.4	112	53.3	204	53.0	542	53.4	
White collars	5	1.9	1	0.7	5	2.4	11	2.9	22	2.2	
Workers, Farmers	10	3.7	54	35.8	18	8.6	18	4.7	100	9.8	
Students	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	2	0.5	2	0.2	
Other jobs	20	7.4	4	2.7	22	10.5	45	11.7	91	9.0	
Health status											
HIV-positive status	22	8.2	7	4.6	9	4.3	44	11.4	82	8.1	<0.01
Having morbidity problem	19	7.0	20	13.3	15	7.1	20	5.2	74	7.3	< 0.05
Having self-care problem	10	3.7	9	6.0	9	4.3	12	3.1	40	3.9	0.49
Having usual activity problem	18	6.7	17	11.3	9	4.3	16	4.2	60	5.9	<0.05
Having pain/discomfort problem	37	13.7	57	37.8	34	16.2	52	13.5	180	17.7	<0.01
Having anxiety/depression problem	56	20.7	65	43.1	38	18.1	51	13.3	210	20.7	<0.01

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+ART+ General health care" in rural areas was significantly lower than those two other models (p<0.05) in specific items and three domains as well.

<u>Table 5</u> presents the relations between SATIS domains and patients' characteristics in reduced multivariate models. The finding indicates that compared to MMT+VCT models, three other MMT delivery models were positively associated with the satisfaction across SATIS domains. Patients in those clinics were more likely to be completely satisfied with quality of services and treatment outcomes. In addition, some specific characteristics were related with each SATIS domain. For example, people at age group 40–45, attaining high school education



Table 3. Factor loadings of SATIS measure in MMT patients.

		Factor loadings of SATIS domains						
Items	% completely satisfied	Services quality and convenience	Capacity of health workers & responsiveness	Inter- professiona care				
Quality of MMT services delivery	49.0	0.68						
Access to information and guidance on hospital services and procedures	51.4	0.76						
Consultation, explanation, and guidance of health care workers	53.1	0.79						
Convenience in check-up booking, waiting time, and administrative procedure	51.1	0.66						
Convenience in using related medical services within the facility, e.g. lab tests, referrals, or related examinations by different specialists	53.0			0.74				
Inter-professional and inter-departmental collaborations	53.9			0.78				
Competence of health care workers	54.5		0.70					
Responsiveness of health care workers to patients' questions and requests	56.1		0.75					
Availability of patients' needed health care services	53.5		0.65					
Medical confidentiality and respect of patients' privacy	60.8		0.74					
% floor		49.0%	0.5%	79.0%				
% ceiling		43.1%	47.9%	50.0%				
Reliability								
Cronbach's alpha		0.94	0.9342	0.9092				
SATIS domains scores								
Mean		9.12	9.20	9.12				
SD		1.19	1.19	1.37				
General satisfaction								
% Completely satisfied with general health services	36.48							
% Completely satisfied with health outcomes	34.89							

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and having self-care problems were found a small to large decrements in "Services quality and convenience" and "Inter-professional care". Moreover, we also found a small decrement in the last domain among patients having anxiety/depression problem.

In term of general quality of MMT services, being high school and having anxiety/depression problems were negatively related with completely satisfy, when people with unknown HIV status were more likely to completely satisfy. These patients were also more likely to complete satisfy with treatment outcome. Meanwhile, higher education, having other jobs and having anxiety/depression problems were inversely related with being completely satisfied.

Discussion

This article presents the findings of a large patient satisfaction survey for MMT clinics in Vietnam. The result shows a high level of patient satisfaction across three domains namely "Services quality and convenience", "Health workers' capacity and responsiveness" and "Interprofessional care", suggesting the acceptance for the quality of services. More specifically, "Confidentially" and "Responsiveness" were observed the highest proportion of people being completely satisfied in comparison to other aspects. The determinants of satisfaction included



Table 4. Satisfaction with MMT by different service models.

	MMT+VCT+ART+DGH								
	MMT	Rural		Urban		MMT+RPC		p-	
SATIS measure items and domains		SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	Mean	SD	value
Quality of MMT services delivery	8.88	1.37	8.87	1.48	9.18	1.31	9.29	0.93	<0.01
Access to information and guidance on hospital services and procedures	8.88	1.44	8.99	1.53	9.20	1.34	9.37	0.86	<0.01
Consultation, explanation, and guidance of health care workers	8.91	1.38	9.10	1.56	9.27	1.22	9.40	0.85	<0.01
Convenience in check-up booking, waiting time, and administrative procedure	8.82	1.43	9.03	1.46	9.23	1.27	9.20	1.15	<0.01
Convenience in using related medical services within the facility, e.g. lab tests, referrals, or related examinations by different specialists	8.91	1.44	9.07	1.51	9.19	1.50	9.28	1.19	0.02
Inter-professional and inter-departmental collaborations	8.82	1.72	9.05	1.56	9.21	1.42	9.38	0.93	<0.01
Competence of health care workers	8.89	1.44	9.12	1.54	9.25	1.38	9.31	1.12	<0.01
Responsiveness of health care workers to patients' questions and requests	8.91	1.45	9.29	1.21	9.20	1.49	9.44	0.84	<0.01
Availability of patients' needed health care services	8.90	1.46	9.16	1.35	9.22	1.42	9.35	0.94	<0.01
Medical confidentiality and respect of patients' privacy	9.13	1.33	9.23	1.55	9.38	1.25	9.41	0.97	0.04
SATIS domains									
Services quality and convenience	8.88	1.26	8.99	1.35	9.22	1.21	9.32	0.87	<0.01
Capacity health workers & responsiveness	8.86	1.51	9.06	1.49	9.20	1.38	9.33	0.98	<0.01
Inter-professional care	8.96	1.28	9.20	1.23	9.26	1.24	9.38	0.87	<0.01
Overall SATIS Score	8.92	1.24	9.08	1.28	9.23	1.21	9.34	0.83	<0.01

DGH: District General Health Center; RPC: Regional PolyClinics.

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MMT delivery models, socio-economic factors (age, education, marital and employment status), health-related quality of life and HIV status.

This study highlights a tremedous effort of the Government of Vietnam in response to the epidemics of HIV and substance abuse. Not only that MMT services have been rapidly scaled up, but also the quality of these services have been improved [23, 24]. As demonstrated, "Quality" (measuring the overall quality of services) and "Convenience" (mentioning waiting time and administrative procedure) had the lowest proportion of patients being completely satisfied compared to other aspects, which were consistent with previous surveys [25, 26]. Those findings were also similar to the results for other diseases-related services such as HIV [21, 27, 28], type 2 diabetes/hypertension [29] and hospital admission [30]. It suggested that the administrative procedure and waiting time remained as barriers for accessing MMT services. Likewise, 51.4% and 53.1% patients felt completely satisfaction with the accessibility of information and the consultation of health workers, respectively, indicating that drug users might receive deficient and less responsive information for their treatment from providers. These figures were significantly lower than in Malaysia where 85% patients completed satisfied with overall treament [18].

When investigating the determinants of patient satisfaction, the result showed that higher levels of education were associated with being dissatisfied across SATIS domains. This phenomenon was common among various populations in diverse healthcare settings [16, 31]. It is because people with high education had higher expectations and requirement for the services; thus they did not easily satisfy with the quality of services. The similar tendency was observed in people having jobs or being higher age, suggesting that health staffs should provide tailored treatment for specific subjects to maximize the satisfaction of those patients. This is also in line with findings from a survey in Spain by Trujols et al. where social functiong was possitively associated with higher satisfaction with MMT[16]. In Malaysia, waiting area and staff shortages



Table 5. Factors associated with patients' satisfaction with Methadone Maintenance Treatment.

	SATIS domain scores							Complete satisfaction with				
	Services quality and convenience		Capacity health workers & responsiveness		Inter-professional care		MMT services		Health Outcome			
	Coef	SE	Coef	SE	Coef	SE	OR	SE	OR	SE		
MMT model (MMT+VCT—ref)												
Rural MMT-ART-VCT-DGH	0.096	0.152	0.13	0.18	0.321*	0.151	2.90**	0.87	2.61**	0.80		
Urban MMT-ART-VCT-DGH	0.321**	0.104	0.17	0.12	0.247*	0.103	2.47**	0.53	2.11**	0.46		
MMT + Regional poly clinic	0.432**	0.120	0.35**	0.14	0.423**	0.117	2.66**	0.63	2.02**	0.50		
HIV status												
Not reported vs. Negative							3.34**	1.40	2.74**	1.13		
Age group (18-<25—ref)												
25-<30							0.63	0.15				
35- <40									1.43	0.27		
40- <45	-0.282*	0.122	-0.270	0.139	-0.287*	0.119						
Education (Illiterate—ref)												
Elementary									0.19*	0.14		
Secondary									0.09**	0.06		
High	-0.219*	0.089	-0.198	0.101	-0.222*	0.088	0.64*	0.11	0.07**	0.05		
Vocational									0.09**	0.07		
University					-0.413	0.233			0.11**	0.09		
Marital status (Single—ref)												
Divorced							1.76	0.53				
Employment (Unemployed—ref)												
Other jobs							0.54	0.17	0.33**	0.12		
Reported health problems (vs. No)												
Self-care	-0.655*	0.214	-0.482	0.249	-0.547*	0.214						
Anxiety or Depression			-0.211	0.128	-0.253*	0.109	0.41**	0.10	0.32**	0.08		
Constant	8.994**	0.088	9.108**	0.104	9.149**	0.090	0.38**	0.07	3.24	2.35		

^{*} significant at 5% level;

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are major barriers, however, in Vietnam these are not factors associated with patients' satisfaction given that all MMT facilities are organized following the national guideline with designated rooms and sufficient staffs. [18]

Of note, we found that the level of satisfaction of MMT patients in MMT clinics without other healthcare services was significantly lower than that in other clinics. Moreover, people with self-care and anxiety/depression tended to dissatisfy in all SATIS domains as well as general quality of services and treatment outcome. The results reflect that drug users preferred for the comprehensive care clinics, include services for physical, psychological and HIV-related care, rather than only MMT treatment services (or with VCT services). Drug users might exposure to high risk HIV-related behaviours such as alcohol drinking and unsafe sexual activities [32, 33], requiring the frequent use of counselling and care [34]. In the context of HIV epidemic driven by PWIDs, combining health services care into a single site is important to improve the accessibility of patients [35–37]. On the other hand, for HIV-positive drug users, MMT service integrates with ART could facilitate the HIV treatment adherence and outcome [2].

^{**} significant at 1% level.



This study contributes to the understanding of measurement properties of the EQ-5D-5L in drug-using populations. Compared to previous studies, the percentage of having psychological health problems in this sample was lower than in HIV population and higher than general population [19, 34]. It is important to notice that EQ-5D-5L is a generic health measure that may result in a high ceiling effect and should be considered in repeated measurements [19, 34, 38].

To date, this is the initial study to provide the evidence about patient satisfaction among MMT patients in diverse type of MMT delivery models. The results would partly contribute to the expansion of MMT program in Vietnam. Findings of this study suggested several implications. First, integrating MMT with other health services such as HIV-related services and especially general health service is critical that should be implemented instead of stand-alone model. This model is not only for reducing operational cost but promptly meeting the needs of patients for comprehensive care [39-42]. Second, the administrative procedures should be simplified and the flow of services should be organized in appropriate approaches to reduce the inconvenience of patients. Besides, the linkages and referrals among related services for drug users should also be improved along with providing sufficient information and guidance for patients. Third, capacity building for health workers should be under consideration to improve the ability to provide responsive consultation and guidance for MMT patients during treatment. Finally, implementing MMT program should be incorporated with collecting data of patient satisfaction. Identifying promptly the expectations and the response of patients could help to identify the gaps of health services, enhance the quality of care and eventually promote treatment outcomes of patients [25].

The strengths of this study comprise the utilization of validated instruments to measure the patient satisfaction with drug use treatment as well as the quality of services. In addition, the survey involved the large number of MMT patients in various settings. However, there are several limitations should be under consideration. First, the causal relations were not drawn with the application of cross-sectional design. Furthermore, convenient sampling technique might limit the representative for the population of MMT patients and the capacity to generalize the findings to the whole population. We would also acknowledge the limitation that this analysis did not involve factors such as HCV status, severity of addiction; concomitant substance use, and methadone dose, given the limitation of a service users survey. In Baltimore, Kelly et al. found that satisfaction with counselors and MMT program predict the decrease in addiction severity and drop-outs[15]. Although some studies have shown that HCV status and serverity of addiction and MMT dose are positively corrected with health-related quality of life—a measure of health outcome that we used, future studies should incorporate specific drug-related measures[16, 43–46].

In conclusion, the study indicated the high level of satisfaction among MMT patients at various MMT delivery models. However, treatment for drug users should go beyond methadone maintenance to address complicated health demands of drug users. Integrating MMT with comprehensive HIV and general health services, a long with improving the capacity of health workers and efficiency of services organisation to provide interconnected health care for drug users are critical for improving the outcomes of the MMT program.

Author Contributions

Conceived and designed the experiments: BXT HTP CL. Performed the experiments: BXT HTP CL LHN. Analyzed the data: BXT LHN. Contributed reagents/materials/analysis tools: BXT HTP CL LHN. Wrote the paper: BXT CL LHN.



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