EPICC (Engaging Patients in Care Coordination) creates access to recovery coach peers and other treatment services for those who present with or recently experienced an opioid-related overdose in the emergency department.

Behavioral Health Network recovery coaches perform outreach 24/7 and meet with patients in the emergency department right after an overdose has occurred. They accept referrals, enhance engagement and maintain contact to support retention in services, foster recovery, and reduce overdose rates that have reached epidemic levels in the region. This program aims to identify and support those people most at risk of a fatal overdose.

Since the implementation of the EPICC project at Mercy’s East Hospitals in July 2017, recovery coaches have met with 254 patients and scheduled 232 follow-up treatment appointments. Mercy Hospital Washington saw 31 patients and 28 were scheduled for follow-up treatment appointments.

Patients opting into this intervention method maintained a 40 percent engagement rate in treatment services, which is significantly higher than the national average.

Mercy and Behavioral Health Network also work closely with the MO-Hope Project to provide opioid overdose education and distribute Narcan (a medication that blocks opioids and reverses overdose) to prevent overdose and reduce harm.

These partnerships are examples of the ways Mercy Washington is addressing the top health priority of substance use, as determined by the hospital’s 2016 community health needs assessment.

For more details on the EPICC project and other Behavioral Health Network collaborative programs, visit: http://www.bhnstl.org/current-projects/.