

738B-639

April 26, 1973

TO: Arik Brissenden, M.D.  
FROM: Max Fink, M.D.  
SUBJECT: VAH Drug Dependence Treatment Center: Opening  
of ambulatory treatment programs

The DDTC, established in July, 1972, first developed an inpatient treatment unit with emphasis on the treatment of opiate dependent veterans. Effective April 23rd, 1973, the DDTC is now expanding its program to treat such patients on a fully ambulatory basis.

(a) Modalities available.

The staff now offers detoxification, psychiatric counselling, group therapy and vocational counselling, methadone and levomethadyl maintenance, and deconditioning therapy using cyclazocine. These services are offered to patients admitted to the DDTC.

On a fully ambulatory basis the DDTC will accept veterans for ambulatory detoxification, induction to methadone, psychiatric and vocational counselling, and social case work.

(b) Admission procedure.

Veterans may be accepted to the program by application to the VAH at Northport, by calling:

261-4400 x 2247 (Dr. Brissenden)  
or, 269-6600 x 2285 (Dr. Swanson)

(c) General procedures.

Patients will be seen by a physician, and an assessment of their drug dependency made on the basis of history, physical examination, and, where appropriate, urine assay and naloxone (or nalorphine) challenge. Admission to outpatient or inpatient program will be made by the admitting physician.