



## **emocha Launches miDOT for Hepatitis C Adherence in Eight Cities Across the U.S.**

**Baltimore, MD | December 6, 2016** – In a national study with eight leading academic medical centers, emocha will provide directly observed therapy (DOT) through its flagship product, miDOT, for hepatitis C (HCV) medication adherence among injection drug users. The study is funded by the Patient-Centered Outcomes Research Institute (PCORI).

DOT -- a practice where healthcare workers observe each dose of a patient's medication -- is the worldwide standard of care for tuberculosis (TB) and methadone treatment. Until now, DOT has been the most effective way to secure adherence to TB medication. Video-based DOT, offered through miDOT, serves as a proxy. "miDOT offers a convenient system for supporting and monitoring HCV patients through asynchronous video DOT, which reduces the need for in-person appointments. We are excited that a world class research team will study the effectiveness of miDOT to secure adherence to HCV medications for people who inject drugs," says emocha CEO, Sebastian Seiguer.

HCV is a growing epidemic that causes nearly 20,000 deaths per year in the United States, surpassing the total deaths from 60 infectious diseases combined, including TB and HIV. Injection drug users are disproportionately affected by HCV, yet are often denied access to revolutionary, new therapies due to concerns about adherence, the cost of medication, and the associated burden of monitoring. With acute cases rising annually, improving treatment options and ensuring medication adherence are becoming top priorities that miDOT is working to address.

Few HCV providers have the capacity to support their patients with traditional DOT. In one arm of this study, eight community health center sites will use miDOT to compare DOT to standard patient navigation in HCV populations that inject drugs. Led by Montefiore Medical Center, the study will be conducted in conjunction with John Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health, Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Harvard Medical School, West Virginia University Medicine, University of Washington School of Medicine, University of California, San Francisco, University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

emocha has been at the forefront of digital monitoring with miDOT, which is currently used for TB treatment in eleven sites in the United States and Australia. This includes a study of four sites in Maryland funded by the NIH and led by Johns Hopkins. Seiguer added, "We are excited to be working with the leading scientists and clinicians in the country to help them better support patients with TB, HCV, HIV, and opioid addiction disorders."

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emocha is a mobile health platform that streamlines the continuum of care. It solves two major problems in healthcare: linkage to care and adherence. emocha's disease agnostic applications have been implemented around the world since 2008.

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