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Collaborative Behavioral Management for Drug-Involved Parolees: Rationale and Design of the Step'n Out Study.

[Friedmann PD](#), [Katz EC](#), [Rhodes AG](#), [Taxman FS](#), [O'Connell DJ](#), [Frisman LK](#), [Burdon WM](#), [Fletcher BW](#), [Litt MD](#), [Clarke J](#), [Martin SS](#).

Rhode Island Research Center of CJ-DATS, Substance Abuse Research Unit, Rhode Island Hospital,
Providence Veterans Affairs Medical Center and Alpert Medical School of Brown University, Providence, RI.

This article describes the rationale, study design, and implementation for the Step'n Out study of the Criminal Justice Drug Abuse Treatment Studies. Step'n Out tests the relative effectiveness of collaborative behavioral management of drug-involved parolees. Collaborative behavioral management integrates the roles of parole officers and treatment counselors to provide role induction counseling, contract for pro-social behavior, and deliver contingent reinforcement of behaviors consistent with treatment objectives. The Step'n Out study will randomize 450 drug-involved parolees to collaborative behavioral management or usual parole. Follow-up at 3-and 9-months will assess primary outcomes of rearrest, crime and drug use. If collaborative behavioral management is effective, its wider adoption could improve the outcomes of community reentry of drug-involved ex-offenders.