

A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters containing information on buprenorphine)
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Interactive Web Seminar

Reckitt Benckiser has announced that on Wednesday, February 27, 2008 at 12 p.m. (ET) they will be holding a Suboxone webcast entitled "Improving the Management of Opioid Dependence: Best-Practice Strategies to Support Optimal, Comprehensive Care of a Chronic Brain Disease" for managed healthcare professionals working with opioid-dependent patients. It will be presented by Dr. Thomas Kosten who is a Professor of Psychiatry and Neuroscience and Director of the Division of Alcohol and Addictive Disorders at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston, Texas. He is also the Research Director for the VA National Substance Use Disorders Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (QUERI) at the Michael E. DeBakey VA Medical Center in Houston, Texas. Dr. Kosten will focus his presentation on the burden that opioid dependence has on the healthcare system and society, and he will give information on best strategies to improve treatment and provide more cost-effective management of the disease. There will be a live Q&A session as well.

You may register for this event at FormularyJournal.com or PatientCareOnline.com.

SAMHSA Offers Grants for Minorities with Twin Epidemics

There is a new grant available for the purpose of enhancing and expanding substance abuse treatment (and/or outreach/pre-treatment) services in conjunction with HIV/AIDS services in African-American, Latino/Hispanic, and other communities affected by the twin epidemics of substance abuse and HIV/AIDS. Both public and private nonprofit entities are eligible to apply. For example, state and local governments, federally recognized American Indian/Alaska Native tribes and tribal organizations, urban Indian organizations, public or private universities and colleges, and faith-based organizations may apply. In addition, grantees must ensure that they will also launch efforts to address the needs of one or more of the following populations:

- Women, including mothers and their children
- Adolescents (ages 12-17) and/or young adults (ages 18-24)
- Injecting and at-risk non-injecting drug (including alcohol) users and their partners, including men who have sex with men
- Individuals released from incarceration within the past two years.

For more details on this grant, go to:

<http://www.addictionpro.com/ME2/dirmod.asp?sid=&nm=&type=news&mod=News&mid=9A02E3B96F2A415ABC72CB5F516B4C10&ter=3&nid=6805237F54F24674B6F353CB9A88A742>

Updates in Research

- Finch JW, Kamien JB, Amass L. **Two-year experience with buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) for maintenance treatment of opioid-dependence within a private practice setting.** J Addict Med. 2007 June;1(2):104-110.
- Branstetter SA, Bower EH, Kamien J, Amass L. **A history of sexual, emotional or physical abuse predicts adjustment during opioid maintenance treatment.** J Subst Abuse Treat. 2007 June;34(2):208-214.

Tip of the Month

Prior to beginning buprenorphine/naltrexone treatment, inform patients of the risk of liver injury and monitor appropriately. Intervene if evidence of liver injury occurs.

Tip Provided by: Physician Clinical Support System (PCSS) found at www.naabt.org.