



A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment
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ARE LAUNDERED MEDICATIONS DAMAGED?

Providers occasionally find themselves in situations in which a controlled substance such as buprenorphine is reported as lost, stolen, or otherwise unaccounted for. These situations can often leave providers with a difficult decision about how to best move forward in the safety and care of their patient. A common testimony is that the medication has accidentally been left in laundered clothing and run through a washer and/or dryer. Dr. Erik Gunderson (University of Virginia and Columbia University) was faced with just this situation and turned what could have been a case report into a scientific experiment to see how much damage buprenorphine medications take on in the washer and dryer. [In Recognizing Potential Buprenorphine Medication Misuse: Product Packaging Does Not Degrade With Laundering](#), Gunderson tests three buprenorphine products and a Screw-loc container as a control. His findings? Aside from curled or damaged corners to the product packaging, the medication was intact and that reports of damaged medication due to laundering may indicate misuse or diversion.



BIV'S MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

The BIV's monthly webinar series continues on Tuesday, October 13th at 1:00pm EST with the topic of *Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) to Prevent Opioid Overdose Mortality*. Look for a Microsoft Outlook calendar invite to the webinar.

If you have a question you would like to have addressed, please submit it to John.HardingJr@va.gov. Previous webinars (including slides and audio) can be found on the BIV Sharepoint site [here](#).

SEPTEMBER'S WEBINAR: OVERDOSE EDUCATION AND NALOXONE DISTRIBUTION (OEND)

For September's webinar we were joined by guest presenters Elizabeth M. Oliva, Ph.D. [VA Opioid Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) Coordinator, VA Program Evaluation and Resource Center, VA Office of Mental Health Operations] and Daina L. Wells, Pharm.D., BCPS, BCPP (National Program Manager, VA Academic Detailing Program, VACO Pharmacy Benefits Management). Their topic was *Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution (OEND) to Prevent Opioid Overdose Mortality*. They included valuable education and included helpful resources. A copy of the presentation slides and audio recording can be found [here](#).

MEDICATION-ASSISTED ADDICTION TREATMENT IN THE NEWS

1. [A Town In Massachusetts Decided to Stop Arresting Drug Users. Two Months Later, Here's How It's Going.](#)
2. [Ravages Of Heroin Addiction Haunt Friends, Families And Whole Towns](#)

RESEARCH UPDATE

1. Kirsh KL, Baxter LE, Rzetelny A, Mazuk M, Passik SD. [A Survey of ASAM Members' Knowledge, Attitudes, and Practices in Urine Drug Testing](#). J Addict Med. 2015 Sep 1. [Epub ahead of print] TAKE HOME POINT: "Overall, the study found that Urine Drug Testing (UDT) is widely used and highly integrated into the assessment and Management of people with addictions undergoing treatment by ASAM members. For example, greater than 94% of respondents use testing to determine adherence, to monitor abstinence, and to detect an early relapse."
2. French J, Mujumdar A, Angus P, Gow P. [Fulminant Hepatic Failure After Intravenous Injection of Sublingual Buprenorphine in a Patient with Hepatitis C](#). Clin Case Rep. 2015 Aug;3(8):705-6. doi: 10.1002/ccr3.314. Epub 2015 Jun 30. TAKE HOME POINT: "Intravenous buprenorphine-induced hepatitis is well recognized, however, life-threatening fulminant hepatic failure has not previously been reported. [...] caution should be applied in patients with chronic HCV infection and who are at risk of intravenous misuse."

BIV: Improving Implementation and Outcomes of Office-Based Treatment of Opioid Dependence in the VA

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