

A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)
Volume 3 Issue 11—April 2010

Buprenorphine Web Resources

Buprenorphine (Suboxone) Training and Practice Tools [BupPractice.com]

Physician Clinical Support System [PCSSmentor.org]

The National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment [naabt.org]

Buprenorphine and Opioid Dependence in the News

What the media is saying and what the public is hearing.

This new feature of the newsletter highlights recent news coverage. If you spot buprenorphine or opioid dependence making the news, feel free to [send a tip](#).

["New Method for Treating Opioid Addiction Unveiled."](#) U.S. News & World Report. April 22, 2010.

Cyber In-Services

Semi-monthly education about buprenorphine

Next in-service topic: INDUCTION

Please join us on **Friday, May 21 at 2pm Eastern** for a presentation by Dr. Laura McNicholas and friends.

Click [here](#) to add the event to your Outlook calendar.

Click [here](#) to enter the meeting and view slides. (If asked when logging on, the meeting ID is 'induction'.)

To hear audio, call 1-800-767-1750 then enter 13881#.

Slides are available for download from the online meeting interface.

Past presentations are available in the buprenorphine folder at the [SUD SharePoint site](#).

Research Update

Mouse-over for abstract

Gender issues in the pharmacotherapy of opioid-addicted women: buprenorphine. Unger A, Jung E, Winklbaur B, Fischer G. J Addict Dis. 2010 Apr;29(2):217-30. PMID: 20407978 Free PMC Article

Abuse liability of intravenous buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine alone in buprenorphine-maintained intravenous heroin abusers. Comer SD, Sullivan MA, Vosburg SK, Manubay J, Amass L, Cooper ZD, Saccone P, Kleber HD. Addiction. 2010 Apr;105(4):709-18. PMID: 20403021

Buprenorphine maintenance therapy hinders acute pain management in trauma. Harrington CJ, Zaydfudim V. Am Surg. 2010 Apr;76(4):397-9. PMID: 20420250

Training Brush-Up: Lab tests that can identify substance use

Certain laboratory tests can raise suspicion of drug use:

- **Liver function test** abnormalities may indicate alcohol use or abuse, as well as acute or chronic hepatitis.
- Elevated **mean corpuscular volume** on a complete blood count is an indication of possible alcohol abuse.
- **Gamma glutamyl transpeptidase** elevation is an indication of possible alcohol abuse.
- Elevated **carbohydrate-deficient transferrin** is an indication of possible alcohol abuse.
- Indicators of hepatitis infection (for example, **B and C antibodies**), and **HIV antibody** positivity may indicate injection drug use.

Source: AAAP DATA-2000 Training

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