A Tool for Buprenorphine Care
(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)
Volume 4 Issue 10—April 2011

Webinar: Formulations of Buprenorphine
Join us on Friday, April 29 at 2pm Eastern for a timely discussion about the formulations of buprenorphine.
To add to your Outlook calendar, click here.

At the time of the meeting:
To join online and view slides, click here.
To hear audio, dial 1-800-767-1750, 13881#.

Research Update


Training Brush-Up: Elderly patients
Factors to consider when using buprenorphine in an older patient include:

- Hepatic metabolism is slowed in the elderly, so maintenance buprenorphine doses may be lower than those used in younger patients.
- Care should be exercised in the induction onto buprenorphine, as they could have different sublingual absorption rates for this medication.
- There is increased incident of pain in the elderly. Treatment of pain may complicate the use of buprenorphine.
- The increased incidence of medication use in the elderly, with the resultant possible medication interactions with buprenorphine.

In addition, close observation during induction should also include monitoring of other medical conditions, to ensure no exacerbation of their symptoms occurs upon treatment with buprenorphine.

Because the literature on the use of buprenorphine among the elderly is extremely limited, care should be exercised when choosing buprenorphine maintenance due to changes or differences in body composition and the metabolism of other medications. At the onset of treatment, more frequent monitoring of the patient should occur and should include assessment for medication side effects/interactions, including increased sensitivity to lower doses of buprenorphine.

Check out the CSAT/SAMHSA Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP), Substance Abuse Among Older Adults, here.

Source: DATA-2000 AAAP Training CD-ROM.