

A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)

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Another formulation may be on the horizon

Results from a phase 3 clinical trial testing a subdermal buprenorphine implant (Probuphine) suggest that the implant is as effective as daily sublingual tablets. The implant provides a steady level of buprenorphine for six months, thus theoretically increasing compliance and decreasing diversion. There is no word yet on long-term outcomes of the implant compared to those of the sublingual tablet. Read more at www.medscape.com/viewarticle/748110.

Buprenorphine and Medication-Assisted Addiction Treatment in the News

Good press *and* bad press.

["Suboxone succeeds in aiding opiate addicts, but too many are abusing it instead."](#) Sam Hemingway. Burlington Free Press, Burlington, VT. July 27, 2011.

Research Update

Mouse-over to see abstract.

Bethanechol for buprenorphine-related urinary hesitancy: a case series. Varma A, Smigiel J, Eck N, Brooks S. *J Addict Med*. 2011 Sep;5(3):227-8. PMID: 21844838.

The Evidence Doesn't Justify Steps By State Medicaid Programs To Restrict Opioid Addiction Treatment With Buprenorphine. Clark RE, Samnaliev M, Baxter JD, Leung GY. *Health Aff (Millwood)*. 2011 Aug;30(8):1425-33. PMID: 21821560.

Full text [here](#)

Improving temporal efficiency of outpatient buprenorphine induction. Gunderson EW, Levin FR, Rombone MM, Vosburg SK, Kleber HD. *Am J Addict*. 2011 Sep;20(5):397-404. Epub 2011 Jul 18. PMID: 21838837.

Illicit use of buprenorphine/naloxone among injecting and noninjecting opioid users. Bazazi AR, Yokell M, Fu JJ, Rich JD, Zaller ND. *J Addict Med*. 2011 Sep;5(3):175-80. PMID: 21844833.

Diversion and abuse of buprenorphine: Findings from national surveys of treatment patients and physicians. Johanson CE, Arfken CL, di Menza S, Schuster CR. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2011 Aug 20. [Epub ahead of print] PMID: 21862241.

Full text [here](#)

Frequently Asked Questions

It's been a while since I took the DATA-2000 training and received my waiver. Do I need to recertify to continue prescribing buprenorphine?

No.

I practice both in the VA and outside of it. Do my VA patients count toward my patient limit?

Yes. Each physician may have a total of 30 (or 100, if waiver requested after first year of prescribing) patients under his or her care with buprenorphine at any one time, regardless of the practice locations.

There is a caveat: a physician working in a methadone program treating patients under that program's DEA/VA license may treat another sample of patients (you can treat up to 30 or 100) under his or her own DEA x number.