



Buprenorphine Initiative in the VA

BIV: Improving Implementation and Outcomes of Office-Based Treatment of Opioid Dependence in the VA  
Compiled and hosted by the [VISN 4 MIRECC](#).

## A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)

Volume 8, Issue 1 — August 2014

### RESOURCE ROUNDUP

In the course of its daily work, the BIV desk comes across many resources, tips, and links. A number of these have been gathered for your benefit. We hope they stir your thoughts, enhance your role of care, and further improve the treatment provided to Veterans.

NPR: [A Growing Number Of Veterans Struggles To Quit Powerful Painkillers](#). This article highlights the story of a particular veteran in an attempt to bring the national problem into light. Additionally, the work of Dr. Gavin West at the VA's Opioid Safety Initiative is highlighted.

STIGMATIZATION LANGUAGE PAPERS: Over the last few years there have been a plethora of email conversations on VA national listserves regarding language used describe patients, particularly those with unhealthy alcohol and drug use and addiction disorders. There has been a smattering of new scholarship regarding this, including some informative articles from VA scholars. Hopefully VA can continue to lead this discussion as we approach Recovery Month.

-Broyles: [Confronting Inadvertent Stigma and Pejorative Language in Addiction Scholarship: A Recognition and Response](#). *Subs Abuse*. 2014. Epub ahead of print.

-Hosea: [Language and Stigmatization in Addiction Medicine](#). *Amer. J. Public Health*. 2015. Epub ahead of print.

-Richter/Foster: [Effectively Addressing Addiction Requires Changing the Language of Addiction](#). *J. Pub Health Policy*. 2014;35:60-64.

-Wakeman: [Language and Addiction: Choosing Words Wisely](#). *AJPH*.;2013;103:4:e1-e2.

BUPRENORPHINE FOR INPATIENTS: A randomized clinical trial regarding buprenorphine for inpatients - [Buprenorphine Treatment for Hospitalized, Opioid-Dependent Patients – A Randomized Clinical Trial](#). *JAMA Intern Med*. 2014.

RURAL ACCESS ISSUES: A commentary regarding quandary of access of opioid use disorder treatment in rural areas. [Access to Treatment for Opioid Dependence in Rural America](#). *JAMA Psych*. 2014.

TRACK FORMULATION CHANGES AT THE BUPRENORPHINE PIPELINE: A colleague recently had questions pertaining to a formulation approval. A great resource for tracking the bewildering changes in formulations, FDA submissions, and approvals is located at The National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment's [Buprenorphine Pipeline](#).

### BIV'S MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES

The BIV's monthly webinar series continues on Tuesday, August 12th at 1:00pm EST. The topic will be *Buprenorphine Questions and Answers: An Expert Roundtable*. You are invited to submit questions, comments, suggestions or topics to [John.HardingJr@va.gov](mailto:John.HardingJr@va.gov).

The webinar will be held in Lync online meeting and VANTS conference call formats. The slides used in the presentation will be made available after the call for those that are not able to connect via Lync. Look for a Microsoft Outlook calendar invite to the webinar.

### MEDICATION-ASSISTED ADDICTION TREATMENT IN THE NEWS

1. [Improved Screening Assay For Buprenorphine in Umbilical Cord](#)
2. [Levin Opening Statement, Senate Forum: 'Buprenorphine in the Treatment of Opioid Addiction'](#)

### RESEARCH UPDATE

1. *JAMA Psychiatry*. 2014 Mar;71(3):338. doi: 10.1001/jamapsychiatry.2013.4530. [Prescription opioid dependence: the clinical challenge](#). Newman RG. TAKE HOME POINT: "The stigma associated with opioid use disorder and its treatment is unhealthy, but it is not inevitable."
2. *JAMA*. 2014 Apr 9;311(14):1393-4. doi: 10.1001/jama.2014.2147. [Confronting the stigma of opioid use disorder—and its treatment](#). Olsen Y, Sharfstein JM. TAKE HOME POINT: "The challenge is not to determine which detoxification schedule is a bit better than another, but to ensure access to long-term treatment that so many dependent individuals want and need—and without which many will die."

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