

A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

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(A series of monthly newsletters containing information on Buprenorphine)

SAMHSA WebBoard

If you are a physician holding a DATA 2000 waiver and interested in discussing the clinical use of buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid addiction with colleagues, SAMHSA has the place for you to do this. Recently, SAMHSA announced the availability of a moderated, password-protected WebBoard for physicians holding waivers from SAMHSA for the treatment of opioid addiction under the authority of DATA 2000. At the SAMHSA Buprenorphine Clinical Discussion WebBoard, member physicians may:

- **Ask and answer clinical questions** about the use of buprenorphine for the treatment of opioid addiction
- **Share their experiences** and learn more about this new form of treatment
- **Ask questions** of an expert guest moderator each month

If you are a physician holding a DATA waiver and interested in the discussion WebBoard, register at <http://bup-webboard.samhsa.gov/policy.asp>. Registration is free and may be cancelled at any time.

Buprenorphine Training for Counselors

The Central East Addiction Technology Transfer Center has designed a 3-hour online training course in buprenorphine treatment for addiction counselors. This training prepares counselors in substance abuse treatment settings, as well as office-based and other healthcare settings, to guide patients and patients' families in the use of buprenorphine. Counselors learn about the effects, efficacy, and safety of office-based buprenorphine treatment. Addiction counselors will also gain an understanding of their role in working in partnership with physicians as part of the therapeutic team providing opioid addiction treatment with buprenorphine.

To register or to learn more about the 3-hour course, please visit the [Central East Addiction Technology Transfer Center](#) and click on the graphic that reads "online courses."

Updates in Research

1. Wedam EF, Bigelow GE, Johnson RE, Nuzzo PA, Haigney MC. **QT-interval effects of methadone, levomethadyl, and buprenorphine in a randomized trial.** Arch Intern Med. 2007 Dec 10;167(22):2469-75.
2. Spire B, Lucas GM, Carrieri MP. **Adherence to HIV treatment among IDUs and the role of opioid substitution treatment (OST).** Int J Drug Policy. 2007 Aug;18(4):262-70. Epub 2007 Jan 26. Review.

Tip of the Month

Length of buprenorphine therapy is up to the patient, physician, and sometimes the patient's therapist or counselor. In the phase of medically supervised withdrawal, it is recommended that the physician slowly taper their patients' Suboxone dose, taking care to see that the patient experiences minimal withdrawal symptoms or cravings. If the patient begins to experience uncomfortable symptoms or cravings at the reduced dose, the physician should increase the dose.