



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)

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BALTIMORE BUPRENORPHINE INITIATIVE

The [Baltimore Buprenorphine Initiative](#) (BBI) is an award-winning partnership between the city, substance abuse treatment providers, and physicians offering buprenorphine to patients who are physically dependent on various opioids. The BBI makes use of an interesting pathway to care which involves induction, assistance in receiving comprehensive services, and transfer to a PCP once stable. The BBI seems to be a model that is to be learned from and imitated, and its robust website is full of resources and descriptions of their programs.

VA MANDATES AND GUIDANCES + CLINICAL GUIDELINES

As part of October's webinar on *VA Mandates and Guidances*, documents pertaining to these topics were culled into the BIV Sharepoint site. They include DoD-VA and VA PBM documents, as well as dozens of guidelines named in a Treatment Research Institute literature review. If you are looking for one location containing the overarching documents that pertain to VA buprenorphine care, find the folder [here](#).

PROVIDERS' CLINICAL SUPPORT SYSTEM FOR OPIOID THERAPIES

The [Providers' Clinical Support System for Opioid Therapies](#) (PCSS-O) has revamped its mentorship scope to assist with care for all opiate use disorders. The PCSS-O operates by way of a SAMHSA grant and includes collaborations with a vast array of professional medical organizations. The PCSS-O website contains a large amount of information including past webinars, newsletters, a listserv, and online trainings. Notably, a mentorship program allows providers to become mentors or to connect with a mentor to receive feedback (note that the BIV's [Voluntary Listing of Buprenorphine Providers](#) includes information on whether individuals are PCSS-O mentors). Explore the website to see if it proves helpful for your practice.

BIV'S MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES:

- **COMING UP:** After taking a break in December, the BIV's monthly webinar series will continue on Tuesday, January 13th at 1:00pm EST. The topic will be *Recap of the Buprenorphine Summit*. You are invited to submit questions, comments, suggestions or topics to John.HardingJr@va.gov. Look for a Microsoft Outlook calendar invite to the webinar.
- **CALL FOR TOPICS:** As the scheduled 2013-2014 series comes to an end, your input on upcoming topics is welcomed. Perhaps there is a new topic you would like to see, a previous topic that you would like to revisit, or a topic on which you would be willing share your insights to the field. Please contact John.HardingJr@va.gov.
- **AUDIO:** Last month's webinar on *Buprenorphine Groups* was successfully captured via Microsoft Lync and includes audio and slides (annotated and manipulated in real time) in a Windows Media Video file. Files are available [here](#).

MEDICATION-ASSISTED ADDICTION TREATMENT IN THE NEWS

1. [Improving The Odds of Beating Opioids](#)
2. [As Heroin Fatalities Rise, Some See Hope in "Bupe"](#)

RESEARCH UPDATE

1. Addict Behav. 2014 Sep;39(9):1353-6. Epub 2014 May 5. [Spontaneous reductions in smoking during double-blind buprenorphine detoxification](#). Patrick ME, Dunn KE, Badger GJ, Heil SH, Higgins ST, Sigmon SC. TAKE HOME POINT: "[...]this study provides additional evidence that opioid agonist medications influence cigarette smoking, with spontaneous yet meaningful decreases in smoking occurring during outpatient opioid detoxification. These findings may inform and improve efforts to balance effective opioid agonist treatment with smoking-related risks among the five million U.S. patients currently receiving long-term opioid therapy for addiction or pain."
2. JAMA Intern Med. 2014 Oct 27. [Epub ahead of print] [Association of Opioid Agonist Therapy With Lower Incidence of Hepatitis C Virus Infection in Young Adult Injection Drug Users](#). Tsui JI, Evans JL, Lum PJ, Hahn JA, Page K. TAKE HOME POINT: "This study is, to our knowledge, the first to examine the effects of opioid agonist therapy on HCV infection to be conducted in young adults who are injection drug users; as such, it extends the literature by demonstrating the potential benefits of maintenance opioid agonist therapy in reducing the incidence of HCV infections in this age group."

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