




A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment
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BUPRENORPHINE WALLET CARD

Joint Commission requires buprenorphine wallet cards or identification cards for programmatic-based buprenorphine clinics. While not required for office-based buprenorphine clinics, BIV fields requests for these often enough that a generic version was produced. You are welcome to use this template as is or adjust it as you see fit. It was intentionally left as generic as possible to apply to a wide range of usage.

The card may be found [here](#).

MEDICATION NOTIFICATION	
This card holder is currently using the following buprenorphine medications:	
<hr/>	
Dosage: _____ mg per _____	

RADIOLAB PODCAST ON ADDICTION

The radio show and podcast Radiolab recently released an episode about addiction. Radiolab explores interesting topics with a particular bent towards auditory curiosity in the way that they present sound materials. Head to

<http://www.radiolab.org/story/addiction/> (blocked at VA computers) or use your podcast player of choice and search for “Radiolab The Fix” (the episode was posted on December 18, 2015.).

BIV'S MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES:

The BIV's monthly webinar series continues on Tuesday, May 10th at 1:00pm EST with the topic of *Stigma and the Language of Addiction*. Look for a Microsoft Outlook calendar invite to the webinar.

If you have a question you would like to have addressed, please submit it to John.HardingJr@va.gov. Previous webinars (including slides and audio) can be found on the BIV Sharepoint site [here](#).

MEDICATION-ASSISTED ADDICTION TREATMENT IN THE NEWS

1. [Heroin Bill Moving In Congress, But Leaving A Critical Piece Behind](#)
2. [Doctors Restricted From Prescribing Addiction Treatment](#)

RESEARCH UPDATE

1. Ling W, Hillhouse MP, Saxon AJ, Mooney LJ, Thomas CM, Ang A, Matthews AG, Hasson A, Annon J, Sparenborg S, Liu DS, McCormack J, Church S, Swafford W, Drexler K, Schuman C, Ross S, Wiest K, Korthuis P, Lawson W, Brigham GS, Knox PC, Dawes M, Rotrosen J. [Buprenorphine+Naloxone plus Naltrexone for the Treatment of Cocaine Dependence: The Cocaine Use Reduction with Buprenorphine \(CURB\) Study](#). *Addiction*. 2016 Mar 7. doi: 10.1111/add.13375. [Epub ahead of print] TAKE HOME POINT: “These findings support the overall safety of the medication combination. No significant differences in AEs were found between conditions, and rates of SAEs were low (10.9% total) with none related to study medication, indicating that buprenorphine in combination with naltrexone is generally safe and well-tolerated. [...] Importantly, there were no cases of opioid overdose during the trial, suggesting that any attempts to override mu opioid receptor blockade by naltrexone were unsuccessful and that participants did not use excess opioids upon removal of mu receptor blockade after medication dosing.
2. Muller AE, Skurtveit S, Clausen T. [Many correlates of poor quality of life among substance users entering treatment are not addiction-specific](#). *Health Qual Life Outcomes*. 2016 Mar 3;14(1):39. doi: 10.1186/s12955-016-0439-1. TAKE HOME POINT: “The characteristics that we found to be associated with poorer quality of life in this sample of substance use disorder patients –reporting depressive symptoms (for women); being physically inactive, dissatisfied with one’s physical self, and reporting some element of social isolation (for men)–are vulnerabilities that are not unique to this population. [...] Treatment should therefore take care to not lose sight of such factors by prioritizing directly substance-related issues, often externally determined to be more important.”

WEBSITE

For resources, guidances, past newsletters and presentations, visit our Office of Mental Health Services (OMHS) SharePoint site: <http://1.usa.gov/1hKnrYE>

BIV: Improving Implementation and Outcomes of Office-Based Treatment of Opioid Dependence in the VA

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