

## A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)

Volume 3 Issue 8—February 2010

### Training Brush-Up: Medications Metabolized by Cytochrome P450 3A4

Buprenorphine is metabolized by cytochrome P450 3A4, and it has the potential to affect and be affected by numerous other medications (inhibitors, inducers, or substrates) that use the same enzyme system, including:

- Nifedipine
- Erythromycin
- HIV protease inhibitors
- HIV non-nucleoside reverse transcriptase inhibitors
- Oral contraceptives
- Certain anticonvulsants (such as phenytoin, carbamazepine, and phenobarbital)
- Certain antidepressants (including paroxetine, nefazodone, and certain tricyclic antidepressants)
- Grapefruit juice

Medications that interact with this enzyme system should probably be avoided or used with caution in patients taking buprenorphine. However, few controlled studies have examined these pharmacokinetic interactions directly. A more complete list of drug interactions for the P450 3A4 system is available at [www.drug-interactions.com](http://www.drug-interactions.com).

Source: AAAP DATA-2000 Training

### Buprenorphine and Opioid Dependence in the News

What the media is saying and what the public is hearing.

This new feature of the newsletter highlights recent news coverage. If you spot buprenorphine or opioid dependence making the news, feel free to [send a tip](#).

["Pill pusher or a lifesaver?"](#) Lawrence Harmon. Boston Globe. February 2, 2010.

["Trying to sweep the ocean back with a broom."](#) Keith Roysdon and Douglas Walker. TheStarPress.com. February 21, 2010.

["Addictions, Bad Habits Can 'Highjack' Brain."](#) Kristina Fiore. ABCNews.com. January 31, 2010.

### Cyber In-Services

Semi-monthly education about buprenorphine

Over 100 people attended our last in-service, Buprenorphine Q&A: An expert roundtable. Thank you!

Past presentations have covered starting a clinic, pain, perioperative considerations, and there are two places they can be accessed:

1. The VA Mental Health Service [site](#).
2. The [SUD SharePoint site](#) in the Buprenorphine folder. (Use your current computer log-on username and password to log on; if this doesn't work, email [Keith Cosgrove](#) for assistance.)

#### NEXT IN-SERVICE:

Please join us on **Friday, March 19<sup>th</sup> at 2pm Eastern** for a discussion of **Primary Care Outcomes of Buprenorphine**.

Click [here](#) to add the event to your Outlook calendar.

Click [here](#) to enter the meeting and view slides. (If needed, meeting ID is 'outcomes'.)

To hear audio, call 1-800-767-1750, then enter 13881#.

### Research Update

Mouse-over for abstract

The pharmacological treatment of opioid addiction—a clinical perspective. Lobmaier P, Gossop M, Waal H, Bramness J. Eur J Clin Pharmacol. 2010 Feb 19. [Epub ahead of print]PMID: 20169438

Improved HIV and Substance Abuse Treatment Outcomes for Released HIV-Infected Prisoners: The Impact of Buprenorphine Treatment. Springer SA, Chen S, Altice FL. J Urban Health. 2010 Feb 23. [Epub ahead of print]PMID: 20177974