



A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment
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UPDATED VA/DoD CLINICAL PRACTICE GUIDELINES

VA/DoD have released a new Clinical Practice Guideline (CPG) for the Management of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) (2015 / v3.0). The guideline is formatted as two algorithms and 36 evidence-based recommendations. The two algorithms are presented as two flowcharts which allow for quick reference or wall mounting. A pocket card version is also available which includes the flowcharts and various screening instruments.

The CPG work group created the guide by filtering the evidence base through the Grading of Recommendations Assessment, Development and Evaluation (GRADE) system. Each piece of evidence was given a Strong or Weak recommendation, and each recommendation carried a direction of For or Against. The recommendations were placed in a peer-reviewed iterative process which saw multiple versions leading to the final CPG. A strength of this CPG is the multi-disciplinary stakeholder involvement from inception.



The new CPG can be found on the VA website here: <http://www.healthquality.va.gov/guidelines/MH/sud/>.

BIV'S MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES:

The BIV's monthly webinar series continues on Tuesday, March 8th at 1:00pm EST with the topic of *Guidelines Part 3: VA vs. Others*. 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. [Drug Officials Worried About Doctors' Eagerness to Prescribe Heroin Withdrawal Drug for Cash](#)
2. [Letter Reveals Drug Courts Lobbied Against Key Addiction Treatment](#)

RESEARCH UPDATE

1. Johnson TN, Jamei M, Rowland-Yeo K. Drug Metab Dispos. [How does the In Vivo Biliary Elimination of Drugs Change with Age? Evidence from In Vitro and Clinical Data Using a Systems Pharmacology Approach](#). 2016 Feb 9. pii: dmd.115.068643. [Epub ahead of print]. TAKE HOME POINT: "Information on the developmental changes of biliary excretion (BE) of drugs is sparse. The aims of this study were to collate literature data on the pharmacokinetics of biliary excreted drugs used in pediatrics and to apply a Physiologically Based Pharmacokinetic (PBPK) model to predict their systemic clearance (CL) with a view to elucidating age-related changes of biliary excretion. The CL of buprenorphine with age was described by the ontogeny of the major elimination pathways (CYP3A4 and UGT1A1) with no ontogeny assumed for the biliary component. Thus, the ontogeny of BE [...] appears to be rapid and attain adult levels at birth or within the first few months of postnatal age."
2. Paulozzi LJ, Zhou C, Jones CM, Xu L, Florence CS. [Changes in the medical management of patients on opioid analgesics following a diagnosis of substance abuse](#). Pharmacoevidemiol Drug Saf. 2016 Feb 10. doi: 10.1002/pds.3980. [Epub ahead of print]. TAKE HOME POINT: The findings in this study suggest that the current health-care system is not well equipped to reduce an individual's risk of overdose following a diagnosis of abuse of prescription drugs. Changes are needed on both the health care system and provider levels to correct this shortcoming.

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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