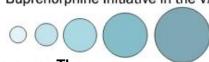
BIV: Improving Implementation and Outcomes of Office-Based Treatment of Opioid Dependence in the VA

A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)

Volume 6, Issue 6 — January 2013



INSIDE THE VA

Barriers to Use of Pharmacotherapy for Addiction Disorders and How to Overcome Them

Pharmacotherapy addiction treatment options are readily available and effective, yet have been slow in adoption. The barriers are complex and they are interwoven at the patient, provider, and system levels. In Disorders and How to Overcome Them, four VA researchers explore and name these difficulties and offer suggestions on how pharmacotherapies can be implemented. While data exist to show that alcohol and opiod dependence are prevalent problems, and that pharmacotherapy is a reliable alternative, only a small percentage of Veterans receive medication-assisted treatment, and many VA locations do not support such treatment to the extent that it is not available as an option. Specific barriers are discussed at each level and specific suggestions are made on how to approach them.

OUTSIDE THE VA

SAMHSA Resources

SAMHSA's (Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration) website contains many useful resources for physicians who provide buprenorphine, and we thought it helpful to have them listed here:

Home Page

Buprenorphine Home Page

KAP (Knowledge Application Program) Clinical Guidelines

Buprenorphine Facts for Patients

Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIP):

TIP 43: Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Addiction in Opioid Treatment Programs

TIP 40: Clinical Guidelines for the Use of Buprenorphine in the Treatment of Opioid Addiction

TIP 24 A Guide to Substance Abuse Services for Primary Care Clinicians

MEDICATION-ASSISTED ADDICTION TREATMENT IN THE NEWS

- 1. Accidental exposure to buprenorphine can make children extremely sick
- 2. Cognitive behavioral therapy adds no value to drug treatment for opioid dependence

RESEARCH UPDATE

- J Subst Abuse Treat. 2012 Dec 21. Psychiatric and medical comorbidities, associated pain, and health care
 utilization of patients prescribed buprenorphine. Mark TL. TAKE HOME POINT: "The comorbidities observed
 in this population strongly suggest that these patients would benefit from integrated treatment that addresses
 their needs in a coordinated and comprehensive manner."

VOLUNTARY BUPRENORPHINE PROVIDER LISTING

For those looking for providers in other cities, we have compiled a voluntary national list, located on Sharepoint. The folder is here and the spreadsheet is here. The list is not exhaustive and not meant to replace the DATA locator – it is intended to provide a voluntary VA-only list of providers. Since it is not exhaustive, it may not contain information for the area in which you are interested, but it may be a good first step to take. If you would like to add a site that you do not see listed here, please contact John.HardingJr@va.gov.

