

## A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)  
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### *Buprenorphine Summit presentations available*

Three weeks ago, SAMHSA brought an interdisciplinary team together at the Buprenorphine Summit in Washington, D.C. to identify emerging concerns in buprenorphine treatment and brainstorm strategies for confronting these issues. This third summit was the first since 2005. The presentations can be accessed at [SAMHSA's website](#) or via the links below:

- [Opening remarks](#)
- [Buprenorphine: Balancing Access with Quality of Care](#)
- [Toward Optimal Use of Buprenorphine and Methadone in Treatment of Heroin Dependence](#)
- [Expansion of Services for Vermonters in Need of MAT for Opiate Dependence](#)
- [Continuing Buprenorphine/Naloxone with Counseling is More Effective than Detoxification with Counseling for 15-21 Year-Old Opioid Addicts](#)
- [Special Population Issues](#)
- [Subutex and Suboxone: How Much Is Prescribed vs. Abuse/Diversion Reports](#)
- [Rural Women: Prescription Overdose Deaths](#)
- [Buprenorphine and pregnancy: Vermont program development and outcomes](#)
- [Expansion of Services for Vermonters in Need of MAT for Opiate Dependence](#)
- [Status Report: Research Needs](#)
- [Education Status Report: Successes & Challenges](#)
- [Emerging Clinical Challenges in Prescribing Buprenorphine](#)
- [Nurse Care Manager Model](#)
- [Integrating Buprenorphine Into an Abstinence Based, Ambulatory Treatment Program](#)
- [Specialty Program Buprenorphine Induction: A Viable Means of Improving Diffusion into Office-Based Settings](#)
- [Science-based Treatment of Opioid-Dependent Adolescents: Summary of Research & Research Needs](#)
- [Pilot Projects and Unmet Research Needs](#)
- [Status Report: Research Needs](#)
- [Physician Clinical Support System](#)

### *Online training for counselors*

The [Danya Learning Center](#), which provides continuing education for health professionals, is featuring an accredited three-hour online course entitled **Buprenorphine Treatment of Opioid Addiction: A Counselor's Guide**.

"Developed for addiction counselors, this course reviews the use of buprenorphine in office-based treatment of opioid addiction. It examines legislative changes that permit office-based buprenorphine treatment, including physician and counseling recommendations. It addresses the science of addiction and the ways in which buprenorphine treatment is part of that endeavor. The course reviews opioids and their effects, and the effects, efficacy, and safety of buprenorphine. It examines patient selection issues, diagnostic evaluations, and appropriateness and contraindications for office-based treatment. It addresses counseling-related issues such as patient confidentiality, recovery and sobriety, pharmacotherapy, 12-Step program issues, readiness for discontinuation evaluations, and responding to problematic patient behaviors."

The course is \$20, and it can be accessed [here](#).

### *Updates in Research*

- Sacerdote P., et al. **Buprenorphine and methadone maintenance treatment of heroin addicts preserves immune function.** Brain Behav Immun. 2008 Feb 20; [Epub ahead of print]
- Wu CH., et al. **Evaluation of various derivatization approaches for gas chromatography-mass spectrometry analysis of buprenorphine and norbuprenorphine.** J Chromatogr A. 2008 Feb 22;1182(1):93-112.

### *Tip of the Month*

If patients complain that Suboxone dissolves too slowly, suggest that they rinse their mouths with hot water (and only water) before taking a dose. Source: Buprenorphine Peer-Support Forum at [www.naabt.org](#).