



Buprenorphine Initiative in the VA

BIV: Improving Implementation and Outcomes of Office-Based Treatment of Opioid Dependence in the VA
Compiled and hosted by the [VISN 4 MIRECC](#)

A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)

Volume 8, Issue 4 – November 2014

UPDATED CRITERIA FOR USE

VA Pharmacy Benefits Management recently updated the Buprenorphine for Opioid Dependence or Opioid Use Disorder – Criteria for Use. The document is found [here](#). The changes included updated language that sublingual tablets and film are indicated for induction and maintenance therapy as well as a paragraph which describes a formulation change.

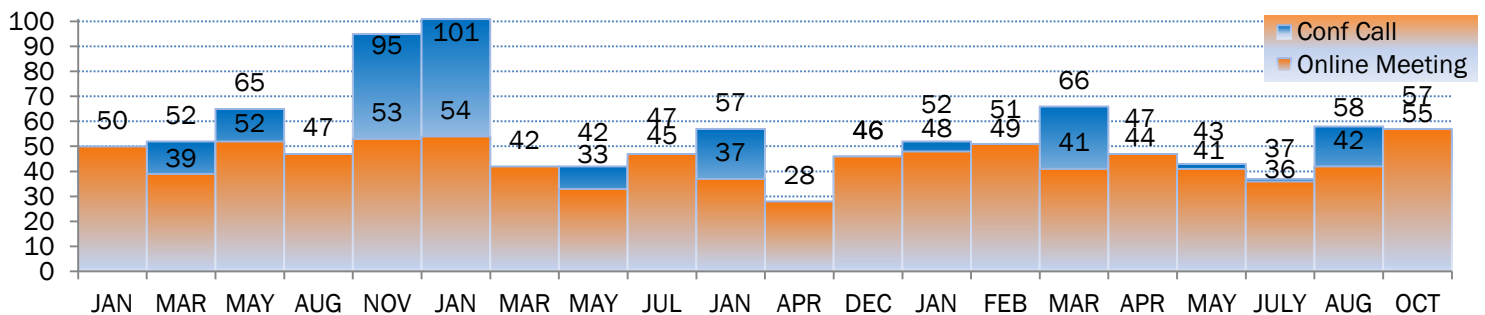
SHAREPOINT

The BIV [Sharepoint](#) site contains a wealth of information that may be useful to you in your practice. A [table of contents](#) has been created and many resources have been updated, including guidances, protocols, resource guides, a voluntary provider list, and previous newsletters and webinars.

BIV'S MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES:

- **COMING UP:** The BIV's monthly webinar series continues on Tuesday, November 18th at 1:00pm EST. The topic will be *Buprenorphine Groups*. You are invited to submit questions, comments, suggestions or topics to John.HardingJr@va.gov. Look for a Microsoft Outlook calendar invite to the webinar.
- **CALL FOR TOPICS:** As the scheduled 2013-2014 series comes to an end, your input on upcoming topics is welcomed. Perhaps there is a new topic you would like to see, a previous topic that you would like to revisit, or a topic on which you would be willing share your insights to the field. Please contact John.HardingJr@va.gov.
- **THANK YOU:** The BIV would like to thank those of you that have been a part of this series – we look forward to many more opportunities to engage in meaningful education and discussion.

BIV MONTHLY WEBINAR SERIES: ATTENDANCE BY DATE



NOTES: The series is conducted via VANTS conference call for audio and Microsoft Lync online meeting for presentations and chat features. The BIV is unable to know if reported numbers are unique – it is assumed that most participants are using both forms of connection simultaneously. We account for the higher call volume due to the logistical difficulty in Lync connection. Popular items have been roundtable discussions, buprenorphine and pain, establishing VA sites, and VA mandates.

MEDICATION-ASSISTED ADDICTION TREATMENT IN THE NEWS

1. [For Prescription Drug Addiction Treatment, Buprenorphine Maintenance Trumps Detoxification](#)
2. [Heroin: An Equal Opportunity Killer](#)

RESEARCH UPDATE

1. JAMA. 2014 Sep 17;312(11):1145-6. [Treating prescription opioid dependence](#). Ruetsch C. TAKE HOME POINT: "Substance use disorders [...] are common in primary care settings, although evidence-based screening, brief intervention, and pharmacotherapy are seldom provided."
2. Med Clin North Am. 2014 Sep;98(5). [Addiction disorders](#). Merrill JO. TAKE HOME POINT: "[...]assessment of patient characteristics, background, length of time abusing [...], and available social support may be more important than the specific opioid that was abused or the adequate starting dose of buprenorphine."

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