

A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)

Volume 3 Issue 6—November/December 2009

JCAHO and buprenorphine

Put most simply, **there are no specific joint commission requirements for buprenorphine**. If used within an opioid treatment program (OTP), then the same standards apply as they would to methadone. Unless the buprenorphine is used within an OTP, then hospital standards apply, not OTP standards.

This issue will be discussed during next month's in-service (details below).

Shadowing experiences

Do you wish you could observe how others at sites similar to yours are delivering buprenorphine care?
Do you have experience with buprenorphine and feel confident in showing peers how you do it?

The consult service is expanding its shadowing program. If you would like to shadow or host, please [email](#) Margaret Krumm with either the type of setting you want to visit or a short description of your setting if you would like to host.

Thanks to the 11 sites in 8 states who have offered to host so far!

Next in-service: Friday, January 22, 2pm (EST)

Mark your calendar for this cyber in-service, **Buprenorphine Questions and Answers: an expert roundtable**. A panel of experts from across the VHA will be available to answer your questions.

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

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

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

Nearly 100 people attended our last in-service, entitled "A Primer on Establishing Buprenorphine Care at VA Sites." The slides are available at the [SUD SharePoint site](#). (Use your current computer log-on username and password to log on; if this doesn't work, email [Keith Cosgrove](#) for assistance.)

Now Available for Analysis: 2008 National Survey on Drug Use and Health

NSDUH is a source for epidemiological research and estimates of the prevalence of substance use and mental health disorders.

The 2008 NSDUH data and documentation files are now available for download and online analysis from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Data Archive (SAMHDA). SAMHDA provides ready access to the most current and comprehensive national data on substance abuse and mental health. All SAMHDA data and services are free of charge and may be downloaded from the SAMHDA Web site. Most studies are available for online analysis. Annual reports for the NSDUH series are provided by SAMHSA's Office of Applied Studies.

With tools such as Quick Tables, users can easily produce custom analytic tables with the NSDUH data. Just choose from preselected variables on drop-down menus by pointing and clicking. Then, copy and paste the results into documents or slides.

[Download Data](#) | [Use Quick Tables](#) | [Analyze Data Online](#) Source: SAMHSA eNetwork (enetwork@samhsa.hhs.gov)

Tip of the month: elderly patients

Factors to consider when using buprenorphine in an older patient include:

- Hepatic metabolism is slowed in the elderly, so maintenance buprenorphine doses may be lower than those used in younger patients.
- Care should be exercised in the induction onto buprenorphine, as they could have different sublingual absorption rates for this medication.
- There is increased incident of pain in the elderly. Treatment of pain may complicate the use of buprenorphine.
- The increased incidence of medication use in the elderly, with the resultant possible medication interactions with buprenorphine.

Source: AAAP DATA-2000 Training

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