

## A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

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(A series of monthly newsletters containing information on Buprenorphine)

### ***Physician Clinical Support System (PCSS)***

The PCSS is a service funded by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to provide physicians with assistance in implementing buprenorphine treatment for opioid addicted patients into their practice. The PCSS consists of a national network of trained physician mentors with expertise in buprenorphine treatment and skilled in clinical education with the goal of assisting physicians who are new to the treatment of patients with opioid dependence. The service is available to interested physicians and staff at no cost.

The mentors provide evidence-based practice guidelines to mentees who sign up for the PCSS. Mentors provide consultation to physicians via email, phone, or at their place of clinical practice on the following topics: (1) Patient Assessment, (2) Induction, (3) Dosing and patient monitoring, (4) Treatment of poly-substance dependence or co-morbid conditions, (5) Issues related to treatment or special populations, (6) Development of support and referral networks, (7) Use of non-pharmacologic strategies, (8) Patient tracking, and (9) Office logistics. Many of the mentors in the PCSS are VA-based clinicians.

To participate in this free service, contact PCSS staff at [PCSSproject@asam.org](mailto:PCSSproject@asam.org), phone: 877-630-8812, or fax: 301-576-5156. One can also sign up on the web at <http://www.PCSSmentor.org>.

### ***Updates in Research***

1. Gordon AJ, Trafton JA, Saxon AJ, Gifford AL, Goodman F, Calabrese VS, McNicholas L, Liberto J; for the Buprenorphine Work Group of the Substance Use Disorders Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (SUD QUERI). **Implementation of Buprenorphine in the Veterans Health Administration: Results of the first 3 years.** Drug Alcohol Depend. 2007 Oct 8;90(2-3):292-6. Epub 2007 May 10.
2. Hakansson A, Medvedeo A, Andersson M, Berglund M. **Buprenorphine misuse among heroin and amphetamine users in Malmo, Sweden: Purpose of misuse and route of administration.** Eur Addict Res. 2007;13(4):207-15.

### ***New Urine Drug Screen Available***

It was brought to the attention of the Consult Service that there is a new urine drug screen available. "The Max" is a 12-panel key operated autosplit test cup. It tests for amphetamines, barbiturates, benzodiazepine, buprenorphine, cocaine, methadone, methamphetamines, mdma/ecstasy, opiates (300ng), oxycontin, propoxyphine and THC. According to the website that sells this urine screen, it is a completely closed system, key operated, a temperature strip is built in, and the test results are easy to interpret. If you are interested in finding out more about this drug screen, visit: [www.drugtestsystems.com](http://www.drugtestsystems.com).

### ***Tip of the Month***

Patients should be made aware of some important safety information: Using buprenorphine intravenously in combination with illegal use of benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants has been associated with respiratory depression and death. When patients take benzodiazepines as prescribed, problems do not usually occur (As always, clinical judgment is important when deciding to prescribe benzodiazepines).

This information is supported and provided to you by Substance Use Disorder Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (SUD-QUERI), Center of Excellence in Substance Abuse Treatment and Education (CESATEs), and the Program Evaluation and Resource Center (PERC) within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Feel free to contact Tykia Andr e at [tykia.andree@va.gov](mailto:tykia.andree@va.gov) with questions or comments.