

## A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)  
Volume 3 Issue 5—October 2009

### VA/DoD Clinical Practice Guideline for Management of Substance Use Disorders (SUD)

Version 2 is available for download as a [summary](#) and the [full guideline](#) [PDF downloads].

### FDA approves generic formulation of buprenorphine

On October 8, the FDA approved Roxane Laboratories' application for Buprenorphine HCl (*not* buprenorphine/naloxone). It is available in 2 mg and 8 mg sublingual tablets. Details, including the approval letter, are found by searching for 'buprenorphine' [here](#) [fda.gov], and Roxane's press release can be downloaded [here](#) [PDF].

Currently, no company has stated intentions to create a generic formulation of Suboxone.

### Next in-service: Friday, November 20, 2pm (EST)

Mark your calendar for this cyber in-service, **A Primer on Establishing Buprenorphine Care at VA Sites**. Invite colleagues who may be interested, and come with questions; Q&A will compose a sizeable portion of the hour.

To add to your Outlook calendar, click [here](#) [livemeeting.com].

To join on the web and view slides, click [here](#) [livemeeting.com].

To hear the audio, call 1-800-767-1750 +13881#.

### Research update

(Mouse over to view abstracts.)

Home- versus office-based buprenorphine inductions for opioid-dependent patients. Sohler NL, Li X, Kunins HV, Sacajiu G, Giovanniello A, Whitley S, Cunningham CO. *J Subst Abuse Treat*. 2009 Oct 2. Epub 2009 Oct 2. PMID: 19801178

Spotlight on buprenorphine/naloxone in the treatment of opioid dependence. Orman JS, Keating GM. *CNS Drugs*. 2009;23(10):899-902. PMID: 19739698

The clinical efficacy and abuse potential of combination buprenorphine-naloxone in the treatment of opioid dependence. Mammen K, Bell J. *Expert Opin Pharmacother*. 2009 Oct;10(15):2537-44. PMID: 19708849

Pharmacokinetic interactions between buprenorphine/naloxone and tipranavir/ritonavir in HIV-negative subjects chronically receiving buprenorphine/naloxone. Bruce RD, Altice FL, Moody DE, Lin SN, Fang WB, Sabo JP, Wruck JM, Piliro PJ, Conner C, Andrews L, Friedland GH. *Drug Alcohol Depend*. 2009 Aug 31. Epub 2009 Aug 31. PMID: 19726139

### Upcoming live training

December 2: Los Angeles, California. Details [here](#) [aaap.org].

### Distance learning opportunities

[AddictionEd.org](#) (maintained by the Addiction Technology Transfer Center [ATTC] national office) is a place to find and submit accredited online courses about addiction. As of this writing, there are 433 courses offered.

### Tip of the month

Unless a patient has acute hepatitis, pharmacotherapy with buprenorphine is not contraindicated on the basis of mildly elevated liver enzymes; moderately elevated levels should be monitored. However, active hepatitis—which is common among opioid abusers—should be appropriately evaluated and treated, as should persistently moderate or markedly elevated liver function tests.

Source: AAAP DATA-2000 Training