

## A Tool for Buprenorphine Care

(A series of monthly newsletters about buprenorphine treatment)  
Volume 3 Issue 4—September 2009

### Mixing buprenorphine and analgesia

If a patient taking buprenorphine requires opioids for analgesia, there are four options. Base the choice on the anticipated duration of pain, the treatment setting, and the response to the chosen option.

1. Continue buprenorphine maintenance therapy and titrate short-acting opioid analgesics (for pain of short duration only).
2. Divide buprenorphine dose every 6-8 hours.
3. Discontinue buprenorphine maintenance therapy and use opioid analgesics. Convert back to buprenorphine when acute pain abates.
4. If the patient is hospitalized, discontinue buprenorphine therapy, treat opioid dependence with methadone at 20-40 mg, and use short-acting opioid analgesics to treat pain. Have naloxone available at bedside. Discontinue methadone therapy and convert back to buprenorphine therapy before hospital discharge (for inpatients only).

Source: Alford, Ann. Int. Med. 2006

### Web resource highlight: [AODhealth.org](http://AODhealth.org)

*Alcohol, Other Drugs, and Health: Current Evidence* is a semi-monthly newsletter from Boston University that offers synopses of clinically relevant research, a slide presentation outlining the research highlighted in each issue, and continuing education credits.

### Research update

- Sansone RA; Whitecar P; Wiederman MW. **Psychophysiological disorders among buprenorphine patients.** Psych Clin Prac. 2009 Aug 31: 1471-1788.
- Parran TV, et al. **Long-term outcomes of office-based buprenorphine/naloxone maintenance therapy.** Drug Alcohol Depend. 2009 Aug 28. [Epub ahead of print]. PMID: 19717249
- Knudsen HK, et al. **Buprenorphine adoption in the National Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network.** J Subst Abuse Treat. 2009 Oct;37(3):307-12. PMID: 19577406
- Reece AS. **Comparative treatment and mortality correlates and adverse event profile of implant naltrexone and sublingual buprenorphine.** J Subst Abuse Treat. 2009 Oct;37(3):256-65. PMID: 19394789

### Upcoming live training

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

### New resources posted to SharePoint

The consult service Resource Guide and slides to previous in-service presentations are available for viewing and download from the Office of Mental Health Services' [SUD SharePoint site](#).

### Next in-service: Friday, November 13, 2pm EDT

Watch for details!