New Formulation Recently Approved by FDA

The FDA has approved a sublingual film formulation of buprenorphine/naloxone for the treatment of opioid dependence. They will be available in the same doses as the tablets and each film will be packaged in its own individual pouch. The films dissolve in half the time as the tablets and may taste better than the sublingual tablets. VA pricing information is not yet available.

Since Suboxone Film is a new formulation, it will be reviewed for formulary status by Pharmacy Benefits Management Services PBM), likely in the first or second quarter of FY2011. In the meantime, and once the product reaches VA pharmacies, Suboxone sublingual film will be available on a case-by-case basis via local nonformulary request processes.

Buprenorphine in the News

What the media is saying and what the public is hearing.


Research Update

Mouse-over for abstract


Frequently Asked Question:

Is there a specific stop code for providing buprenorphine treatment?

Providers should use the same stop code for providing buprenorphine treatment as they do for providing other care. If buprenorphine is being provided in primary care, the stop code would be 323. If it is provided in a licensed methadone clinic, the stop code would be 523. If in infectious disease, the stop code would be 310, and so forth.

A procedure code can be used to differentiate buprenorphine care for your monitoring.

In substance abuse treatment clinics, the stop codes are as follows:

Substance Abuse – Individual: 513
Substance Abuse Disorder/PTSD Teams: 519
Opioid Substitution: 523
Intensive Substance Abuse Treatment – Group: 547

Source: Buprenorphine Initiative in the VA Resource Guide

This information is supported and provided by the Substance Use Disorder Quality Enhancement Research Initiative (SUD-QUERI), Center of Excellence in Substance Abuse Treatment and Education (CESATEs), the Mental Illness Research, Education and Clinical Centers (MIRECC), and the Program Evaluation and Resource Center (PERC) within the Department of Veterans Affairs. Please contact Margaret Krumm at margaret.krumm@va.gov or 412-954-5229 with questions or comments.