Buprenorphine Treatment in Community-Based Primary Care

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Professor of Medicine
Establishing the Buprenorphine Treatment Program

HRSA funding 2004
- 5 years, $1.9 million
- Integration of bupe & HIV treatment

Care Team
1 site = CHCC
3 MDs
1 PharmD = Bupe Coordinator
Buprenorphine Treatment Program – 10 years
>900 patients, >25 prescribers

Patients receiving buprenorphine treatment
## Expansion of the Buprenorphine Treatment Program

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<tr>
<th>Clinic</th>
<th>CHCC</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Bupe Champion</strong></td>
<td>C. Cunningham</td>
<td>T. Lu</td>
<td>L. Khalid</td>
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<td><strong>Bupe Coordinator</strong></td>
<td>A. Giovanniello PharmD</td>
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<td><strong>Community outreach</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Bupe Prescribers</strong></td>
<td>M. Bachhuber</td>
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Buprenorphine Treatment Strategies

• Home induction tool kit (initiation of treatment)

Starting Buprenorphine ("Bupe" or "Suboxone")

Congratulations on starting treatment!

What to start with:
- Buprenorphine (Bupe) pills or films (1 mg)
- Clonidine pills (0.1 mg) – for anxiety; take 1 pill every 3 hours as needed
- Imodium pills (2.0 mg) – for diarrhea, take 1 pill after each episode of diarrhea. Max 4 pills per day.

How to take Bupe:
- Before taking Bupe, drink some water
- Put Bupe under your tongue
- Don’t eat or drink anything until the Bupe has dissolved completely.

Plan:
- Use your last heroin / methadone / pain pill
- When you have at least 3 symptoms from the list, then you are ready to start.
- Start with pill or film under your tongue.
- Wait ______ minutes
- If you feel the same or just a little better, then take another pill or film
- Wait 2 hours – if you still feel sick or uncomfortable, take another pill or film.

Problems? Questions?
- Call _________ if you still feel sick after taking a total of ______ pills or films (____ mg).

Next steps:
- Appointment with _______ at _______
- Appointment with Dr. _______ at _______

Things not to do with Bupe:
- DON’T use Bupe when you are high—it will make you dope sick!
- DON’T use Bupe with alcohol—this combination is not safe.
- DON’T use Bupe with benzodiazepines (like Xanax, "vicks"), ketamine, Valium, Ambien) unless prescribed by a doctor who knows you are taking Bupe.
- DON’T use Bupe if you are taking pain killers until you talk to your doctor.
- DON’T use Bupe if you are taking more than 60 mg of methadone.
- DON’T swallow Bupe—it goes into your body by putting under your tongue.
- DON’T lose your Bupe—it can’t be refilled.
Buprenorphine Treatment Strategies

• Delivery of buprenorphine treatment
  – Model of care
  – Home induction
  – Group-based treatment
  – Induction at syringe exchange programs

• “Appropriate” patient population
  – Polysubstance use
  – Chronic pain

• Integrating buprenorphine treatment with other illnesses
  – HIV
  – Hepatitis C viral infection
  – Smoking