



Case #649

Interim Buprenorphine Treatment

Opioid addiction in American has hit epidemic levels and despite the demonstrated need for and the effectiveness of current treatments, waitlists persist. While waiting for treatments, patients are at a high risk for illicit drug use, engaging in criminal activity, contracting infectious disease and death. Interim buprenorphine treatment (IBT) offers a comprehensive solution with daily doses administered through a computerized, portable device, combined with automated check ins, in person testing and HIV/HepB education. Compared to patients who received no treatment while waiting, patients who receive IBT have decreased illicit opioid use, reduced withdrawal symptoms and cravings, increased HIV/HepB education and significantly lower levels of depression. These results translate into an effective way to bridge waitlist for at risk populations and reduce harm to patients and society.

Applications:

- Interim treatment to bridge waitlists and engage patients with the treatment system.

Advantages:

- Reduces harm to patients and society.
- Reduces barrier of in person clinic visits.
- Self-directed, providing patients control over their treatment.
- Low abuse and overdose liability.

Intellectual Property and Development Status:

Available for licensing and research collaboration.

References:

Bridging waitlist delays with Interim Buprenorphine Treatment: Initial feasibility Sigmon SC *et al* Addict Behav. 2015 December; 51: 136–142

Interim Buprenorphine vs. Waiting List for Opioid Dependence Sigmon SC *et al* N Engl J Med. 2016 December 22; 375(25): 2504–250

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