



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES

Substance Abuse and Mental Health
Services Administration

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Center for Mental Health Services
Center for Substance Abuse Prevention
Center for Substance Abuse Treatment
Rockville MD 20857

Dear Nursing Professionals:

The Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT), Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), is releasing a Technical Assistant Publication (TAP 30) titled "Buprenorphine: A Guide for Nurses." This publication is intended to provide nurses, including registered nurses (RNs), licensed practical nurses (LPNs), nurse practitioners (NPs), and Advanced Practice Nurses (APNs) with current information about buprenorphine products—Suboxone® (buprenorphine and naloxone) and Subutex® (buprenorphine)—for the pharmacological treatment of opioid addiction. This Guide can also serve as a resource to enable nurses working with physician prescribers to improve treatment outcomes for individuals receiving buprenorphine treatment for opioid addiction.

The Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) expands the clinical context of medication-assisted opioid addiction treatment by allowing qualified physicians to dispense or prescribe buprenorphine products for the treatment of opioid addiction in practice settings other than the traditional opioid treatment program. Currently, Advanced Practice Nurses and Nurse Practitioners may not prescribe or dispense buprenorphine products for the treatment of addiction even in States that allow them to prescribe scheduled medications under certain controls, supervision and other restrictions.

This Guide will enhance the addiction management skills of nurses and promote a mutually respectful team environment in which nurses and physicians collaboratively work to improve the care provided to individuals who are addicted to opioids. This care may include assessment, induction, stabilization, maintenance, medication monitoring, addiction counseling, and relapse prevention.

The Buprenorphine Nursing Guideline is available online at <http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov/>. For additional information or questions regarding the Guideline, please contact LTJG Sara Azimi-Bolourian, MSN, MBA at 240-276-2708 or sara.azimi-bolourian@samhsa.hhs.gov

Sincerely,

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Director
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