

The Blending Initiative

The blending of resources, information and talent is the distinctive methodology behind a landmark agreement between the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA) and the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). The interagency agreement established the NIDA/SAMHSA-ATTC Blending Initiative, a unique partnership that uses the expertise of both agencies to meld science and service together to improve drug abuse and addiction treatment. The Initiative encourages the use of current, evidence-based treatment interventions by professionals in the treatment field.

Blending Teams, comprised of Community Treatment Programs (CTP) and researchers affiliated with NIDA's Clinical Trials Network (CTN) and staff from CSAT's Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network, are charged with the dissemination of research results that are ready for adoption and implementation into practice. These Teams will identify and develop activities and materials (e.g. trainings, self-study programs, workshops and distant learning opportunities) for the addiction treatment field that will provide the tools necessary to access and adopt NIDA research protocols. ●

Opioid Use and Abuse

Opioid use and abuse continues to be a problem across the U.S. Research is showing the use is increasing.

- *More than 3 million people over the age of 12 have used heroin at least one time.*
- *Between 1994 and 2001, the number of new heroin initiates was about 100,000 per year.*
- *Approximately 1.8% of Americans were currently using pain relievers, and approximately 2 million people had used OxyContin at least once in their lives.*



The Drug Abuse Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000) allows opioid treatment to continue as it has in the past, and it allows for expansion beyond the current structure to include treatment in office-based settings in addition to the traditional opioid treatment programs (OTPs). By doing so:

- More patients may be willing to seek treatment;
- More patients will have access to treatment; and
- Stigma may be reduced by broadening the definition and locations of available treatment options ●

The Training Package

The Buprenorphine Awareness Blending Team was charged with developing an awareness training package for multidisciplinary (non-physician) addiction professionals. The purpose of the training package is to educate the field about buprenorphine and its use in the treatment of opioid dependence.

Training Package Contents

- A 6-hour classroom training program providing an overview of buprenorphine treatment
- A self-paced CD-ROM awareness course on buprenorphine treatment
- An annotated bibliography and research articles ●

For More Information

Contact the ATTC Regional Center in your area for more information on this topic.

See back panel.

Buprenorphine Awareness Blending Team Members

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Buprenorphine Treatment: A Training for Multidisciplinary Addiction Professionals

The primary goal of this training package is to create awareness about buprenorphine among multi-disciplinary addiction professionals. The materials include information designed to increase motivation for bringing buprenorphine to local communities, as well as information about what to expect when someone is treated with this medication. Additionally, materials

discuss legislation that permits office-based buprenorphine treatment, the science of addiction, the mechanism of buprenorphine, patient selection issues, and various patient, counseling, and therapeutic issues. ●



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