Case #649

**Interim Buprenorphine Treatment**

Opioid addiction in America 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


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