

# 2024 Pain Care Skills Training Buprenorphine for Chronic Pain

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**Offered:** 15 AUGUST 2024 AM 0830-1130 EDT

**Location:** ZoomGov

**Description:** The updated 2022 VA/DoD Opioids Clinical Practice Guidelines (CPGs) suggest the use of buprenorphine instead of full agonist opioids for patients receiving daily opioids for the treatment of chronic pain due to lower risk of overdose and misuse. The use of buprenorphine for pain, specifically chronic pain, comes with many different approaches especially as updated guidelines support new evidence-based recommendations. This presentation overviews the evidence that supports this and dives deep into its implementation in clinical practice.

## Learning Objectives:

1. Review buprenorphine's clinical pharmacology in chronic pain management.
2. Summarize the supporting evidence from the VA/DoD CPGs that suggests buprenorphine instead of full agonist opioids for Long-Term Opioid Therapy (LOT) patients.
3. Provide guidance on the use of buprenorphine, in its different formulations, for pain management, including patients at high risk from other opioids due to medical or mental health factors and for patients who have comorbid Opioid Dependence or Opioid Use Disorder and chronic pain conditions.
4. Acquire enhanced knowledge and understanding of the suggested initiation approaches, given the wide variability in the recommended dose equivalencies between buprenorphine and morphine and the lack of concrete recommendations for equianalgesic dosing.
5. Understand transitioning LOT patients to buprenorphine is a patient-centered individualized approach and the buprenorphine formulation and dosing selection should be selected based on the individual patient needs.
6. Evaluate and assess the perioperative management of buprenorphine.
7. Outline tips for assessing chronic pain in patients on LOT that transition to buprenorphine, specifically initial assessment and monitoring along with frequent follow-up.
8. Discuss specific clinical patient cases to implement the CPGs' recommendation into practice.

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0730-0815	Buprenorphine's Clinical Pharmacology
0815-0830	Recommendations and Evidence
0830-0837	----- BREAK -----
0837-0915	Clinical cases
0915-1030	Implementing guidelines and recommendations
1030-1037	----- BREAK -----
1037-1115	Clinical Cases
1115-1130	Q & A's