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What Is a TIP?

Treatment Improvement Protocols (TIPs) are best-practice guidelines for the treatment of substance use disorders, provided as a service of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's (SAMHSA's) Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT). CSAT's Office of Evaluation, Scientific Analysis and Synthesis draws on the experience and knowledge of clinical, research, and administrative experts to produce the TIPs, which are distributed to a growing number of facilities and individuals across the country. As alcoholism and other substance use disorders are increasingly recognized as major problems, the audience for the TIPs is expanding beyond public and private substance use disorder treatment facilities.

The Buprenorphine Advisory Board, a distinguished group of substance abuse experts and professionals in such related fields as primary care, mental health, and social services, works with the State Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse Directors to generate topics for the TIPs based on the field's current needs for information and guidance.

After selecting a topic, CSAT invites staff from pertinent Federal agencies and national organizations to a resource panel that recommends specific areas of focus as well as resources that should be considered in developing the content of the TIP. Then recommendations are communicated to a consensus panel composed of experts who have been nominated by their peers. This panel participates in a series of discussions; the information and recommendations on which they reach consensus become the foundation of the TIP. The members of each consensus panel represent substance use disorder treatment programs, hospitals, community health centers, counseling programs, criminal justice and child welfare agencies, and private practitioners. A panel chair (or cochairs) ensures that the guidelines mirror the results of the group's collaboration.

A large and diverse group of experts reviews the draft document closely. Once the changes recommended by these field reviewers have

DRAFT

been incorporated, the TIP is prepared for publication in print and online. The TIPs can be accessed via the Internet on the National Library of Medicine's home page <http://text.nlm.nih.gov/> or at <http://www.samhsa.gov/centers/csat2002/publications.html>. The use of electronic media also means that the TIPs can be updated more easily so that they can continue to provide the field with state-of-the-art information. Although each TIP includes an evidence base for the practices its panel recommends, CSAT recognizes that the field of substance use disorder treatment is evolving continuously and that research frequently lags behind the innovations pioneered by those in the field. A major goal of each TIP is to convey "front line" information quickly but responsibly. For this reason, recommendations in the TIP are attributed either to panelists' clinical experience or to the appropriate literature. If there is research to support a particular approach, citations are provided.

This TIP, *Clinical Guidelines for the Use of Buprenorphine in the Treatment of Opioid Addiction*, provides consensus- and evidence-based guidance on the use of

buprenorphine, a new option for the treatment of opioid addiction. The goal of this TIP is to provide information that physicians can use to make practical and informed decisions about the use of buprenorphine to treat opioid addiction. The Guidelines address a number of topic areas related to this goal, including the physiology and pharmacology of opioids, opioid addiction, and treatment with buprenorphine; the screening and assessment of opioid addiction problems; detailed protocols for opioid addiction treatment with buprenorphine; management of special populations; and policies and procedures related to office-based opioid addiction treatment under the paradigm established by the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000. This TIP represents another step by CSAT toward its goal of bringing national leaders together to improve substance use disorder treatment in the United States.

Other TIPs may be ordered by contacting the National Clearinghouse for Alcohol and Drug Information (NCADI), (800) 729-6686 or (301) 468-2600; TDD (for the hearing impaired), (800) 487-4889. See <http://www.samhsa.gov>.

DRAFT

Guidelines for the Use of Buprenorphine in the Treatment of Opioid Addiction

April 23, 2004

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DRAFT

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Guidelines for the Use of Buprenorphine in the Treatment of Opioid Addiction

April 23, 2004

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Foreword

Our Nation has made great strides in recent years in achieving recovery for persons with substance use disorders. We know much more about how to deliver recovery-oriented substance abuse treatment, improve service quality, achieve desired improvements in quality-of-life outcomes, and implement needed care systems in each community in the United States. Our vision is of a life in the community for everyone.

The Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) series promotes resilience and facilitates recovery from substance use disorders. The TIPs add to our knowledge base and provide best practice guidance to clinicians, program administrators, and payors. They are the result of careful consideration of all relevant clinical and health services research findings, demonstration experience, and implementation requirements. For each TIP topic, an expert panel of non-Federal clinical researchers, clinicians, program administrators, and patient advocates debates and discusses best practices until its members reach a consensus.

The talent, dedication, and hard work that TIPs panelists and reviewers bring to this highly participatory process have bridged the gap between the promise of research and the needs of practicing clinicians and administrators. We are grateful to all who have joined with us to contribute to advances in the substance use disorder treatment field.

We hope you will find many uses for the information contained in this volume and that you will join in our goal of helping all Americans with substance use disorders realize healthy, contributing lives in their communities nationwide.

Charles G. Curie, M.A., A.C.S.W.

Administrator

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