Providing Care with a Redemptive Mindset in Opioid Use Disorder

TRACY FRAME, PHARMD, BCACP, BELMONT UNIVERSITY

JOEL FRAME, CONNECTIONS PASTOR, HOPE CHURCH

Disclosures

- Dr. Tracy Frame and Joel Frame, authors of this educational activity, have no relevant financial relationship(s) with ineligible companies to disclose.
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Learning Objectives

1

Review medications used in opioid use disorder.

2

Identify the barriers to treatment for patients struggling with opioid use disorder.

3

Discuss how one could have a redemptive mindset towards those fighting an opioid use disorder.

4

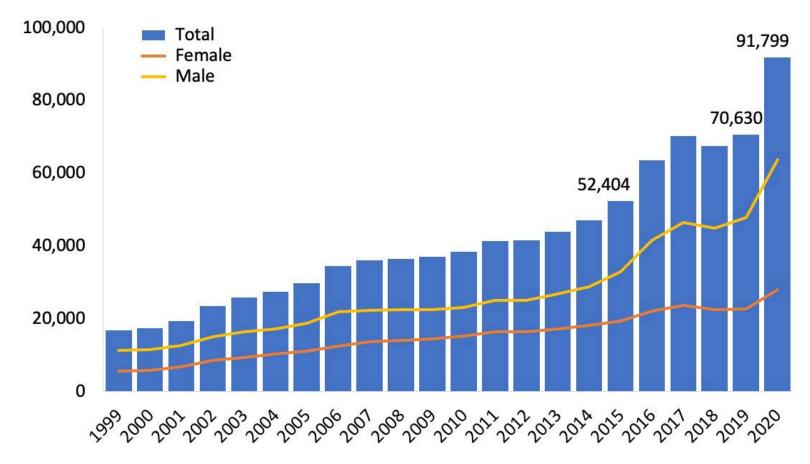
Formulate a plan of action for how they might provide compassionate care to patients with opioid use disorder.

What one question do you have today about opioid use disorder or its treatment?

Quick Overview

Facts

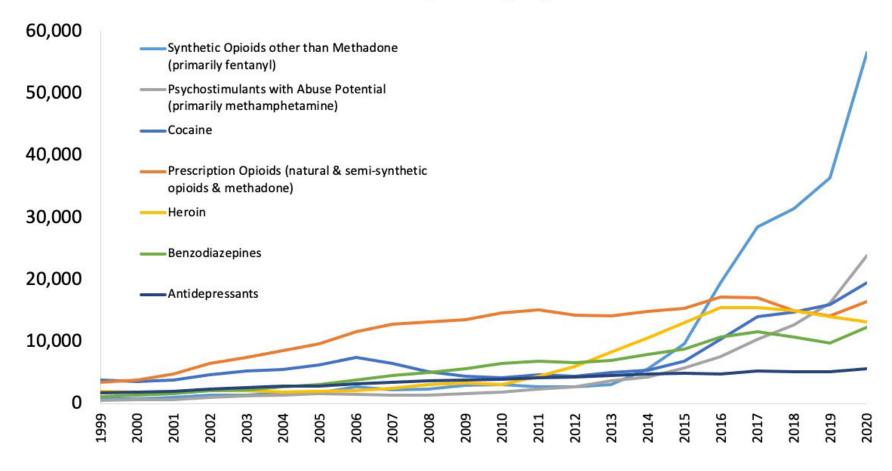
Figure 1. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths* Number Among All Ages, by Gender, 1999-2020



^{*}Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2021.

Facts

Figure 2. National Drug-Involved Overdose Deaths*, Number Among All Ages, 1999-2020



^{*}Includes deaths with underlying causes of unintentional drug poisoning (X40–X44), suicide drug poisoning (X60–X64), homicide drug poisoning (X85), or drug poisoning of undetermined intent (Y10–Y14), as coded in the International Classification of Diseases, 10th Revision. Source: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Health Statistics. Multiple Cause of Death 1999-2020 on CDC WONDER Online Database, released 12/2021.

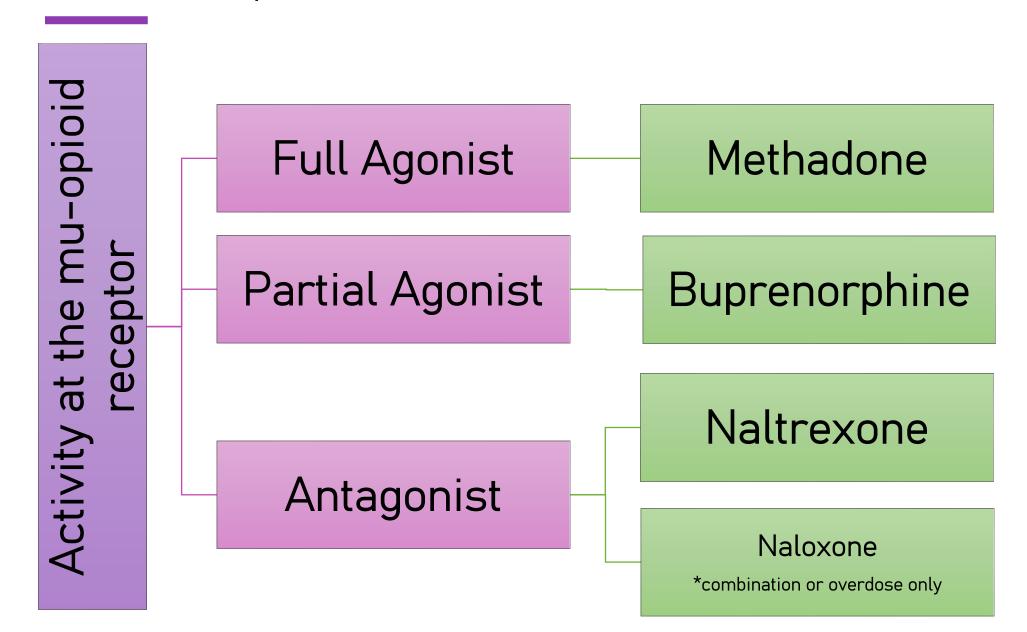
Medication-Assisted Treatment

Also known as "MAT"

Use of medications, in combination with counseling and behavioral therapies, to provide a "whole-patient" approach to the treatment of substance use disorders

What medications are used to treat opioid use disorder?

MAT in Opioid Use Disorder



Methadone

Schedule II controlled substance, oral dosage form

Medically supervised withdrawal and maintenance

· Controls cravings and blunts euphoria from illicit opioids

Long-acting, usually 24-36 hours

- Wide individual variability in half-life (8 to 59 hours)
- · Reaches steady state in about 5 days

Individualized dosing \rightarrow begin low dose and gradually increase with daily monitoring over days to weeks

Therapeutic dose may be as high as 80–120 mg daily

Methadone

Common Adverse Effects

- Sweating
- Constipation
- · Respiratory depression- especially with alcohol or benzodiazepines

Drug-Drug interactions

- · With medications metabolized by CYP3A4, 2B6, 2C19
- · Other medications that can cause respiratory depression

Cautions

- · Prolonged QT interval
- · Hepatic impairment- key role in metabolism
 - · Start low and go slow
- · Overdose can be fatal

Buprenorphine

Schedule III controlled substance

Requires a DATA 2000 waiver to prescribe for Opioid Use Disorder

Medically supervised withdrawal and maintenance

Initiate around 12–24 hours after last opioid or can precipitate withdrawal– typically follow Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Score (COWS)

Effective/maintenance dose is the dose that prevents withdrawal symptoms and cravings

Long elimination half-life (24 to 69 hours)

Buprenorphine

Common Adverse Effects

- Nausea, Vomiting, Dizziness, Constipation
- · Peripheral edema, sedation
- Mild euphoria

Drug-Drug Interactions

- With CYP450 3A4 enzymes
- Other medications that can cause respiratory depression

Cautions

- Sedative effects (confusion, extreme sleepiness, breathing issues)
 - Especially with benzodiazepines, alcohol, other CNS depressants
- Severe liver impairment monitor liver function
 - Combo product not recommended
 - Mono-product should reduce starting and titration dose by half

Naltrexone

ReVia® (50 mg oral tablets) or

Vivitrol® (380 mg extended-release intramuscular injection every 28 days)

- Antagonist
 - Reduces opioid cravings
 - · No euphoria or sedative effects of opioids if patient were to take some

Prevention of relapse following medically supervised withdrawal

Not a control substance and not addictive

Patients need to be opioid free for at least 3–14 days before starting (depending on opioid used) or else may precipitate withdrawal

Naltrexone

Common Adverse Effects

- Oral: Nausea, vomiting, anxiety, insomnia, depression, anorexia
- Injection site reactions: pain, swelling, cellulitis, abscess, necrosis (rare, may need surgical intervention)

Drug-Drug Interactions

Minimal

Cautions

- Risk of overdose
- Hepatotoxicity- increase in liver enzymes; monitor
 - Can cause hepatic injury; can cause further injury in patients with liver dysfunction
 - No dose adjustment with mild/moderate impairment
- Depression/ Suicidality- monitor for symptoms

A patient with Opioid Use Disorder is talking to you about treatment options. Their last use of IV heroin was this morning.

Barriers

Barriers - Overall

Stigma

Diversion/ Misuse

Medical Complications Induction onto MAT

Barriers to Broader Use of Medications to Treat Opioid Use Disorder. National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine; Health and Medicine Division; Board on Health Sciences Policy; Committee on Medication-Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder. Published March 2019. Accessed May 12, 2022. https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK541389/

Wright N, D'Agnone O, Krajci, et al. Addressing misuse and diversion of opioid substitution medication: guidance based on systematic evidence review and real-world experience. *J Public Health*. 2016; 38(3):e368-374.

What is the treatment need versus the diversion risk for opioid use disorder treatment? *NIDA*. 2021. Published December 2021. Accessed April 20, 2022. https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/research-reports/medications-to-treat-opioid-addiction/what-treatment-need-versus-diversion-risk-opioid-use-disorder-treatment.

Patient Barriers

Acceptance

- · Self-acceptance with having Opioid Use Disorder and desire for treatment
- Peer acceptance

Insurance coverage

Lack of mental health and social support

Missing appointments- work/childcare issues

Patient Barriers

Access to a provider

- 60.1% of rural counties in United States lack a physician with a DEA wavier to prescribe buprenorphine
- Research showed waivered clinicians who were able to provide care prescribing at low rate for patient limit
- Methadone clinic daily

Access to medication

- 1 in 5 pharmacies unable/unwilling to fill buprenorphine prescription
- Difficult to find locations able to provide naltrexone injection

Transportation and travel time

Must go to daily or weekly

Pharmacist Barriers

Distrust in provider, pharmaceutical companies

- Opioid analgesic promotion
- Overprescribing due to incentives

Willingness to dispense (especially buprenorphine)

Supply policies

 Monitoring for # threshold or "cap"

Lack of Education and Training

Lack of confidence

Time

Prescriber Barriers

Insufficient:

- Training
- Education
- Experience
 - Resources

Lack of Support

- Institutional
- Clinician peer support

Poor care coordination

- Lack of time
- Referral for counseling

Reimbursement

Lifetime limits

Burdensome regulatory procedures

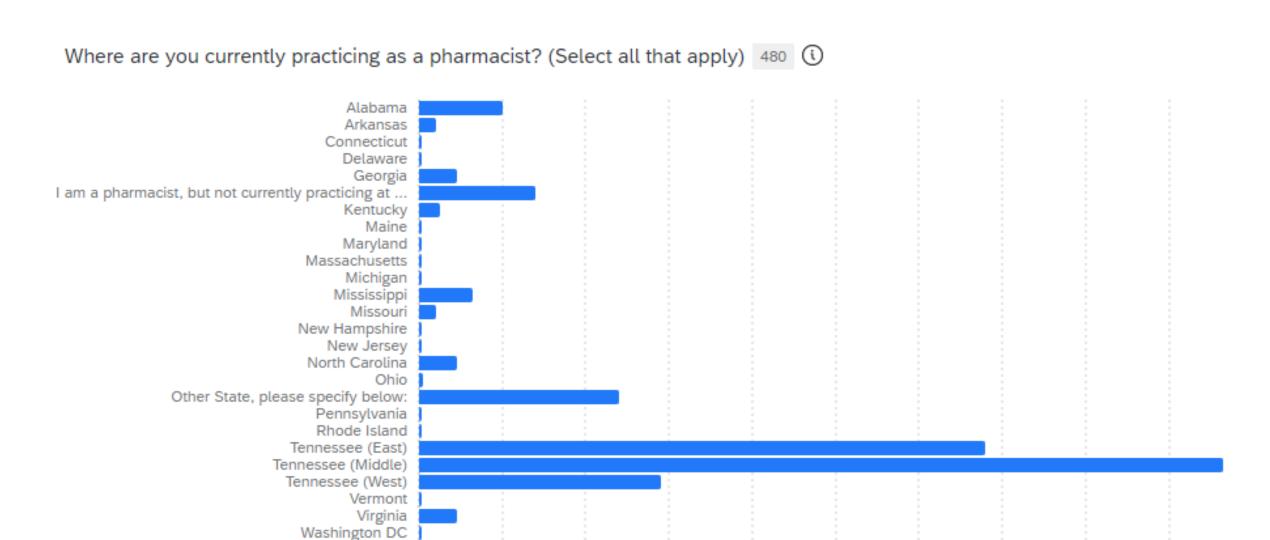
- Number of patients
- Waiver training course
- Record Keeping

What additional barriers have you come across when treating patients with OUD?

Study Preliminary Results

Frame TR, Clauson A, Hagan A. Surveyed in summer of 2019.

- 561 pharmacists consented to participate
- 480 finished survey completely
- \cdot 70% aged 18-44 years, 30% aged \geq 45 years
- Objective of study: to gain a better understanding of pharmacists' perceptions and knowledge of dispensing buprenorphine/naloxone, naloxone and clean needles in practice.



West Virginia

0.00

20.00

40.00

60.00

80.00

100.00

120.00

140.00

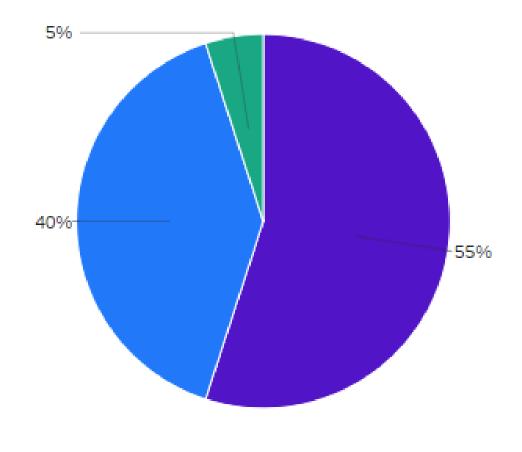
160.00

180.00

What best describes your practice site? 480 (1)

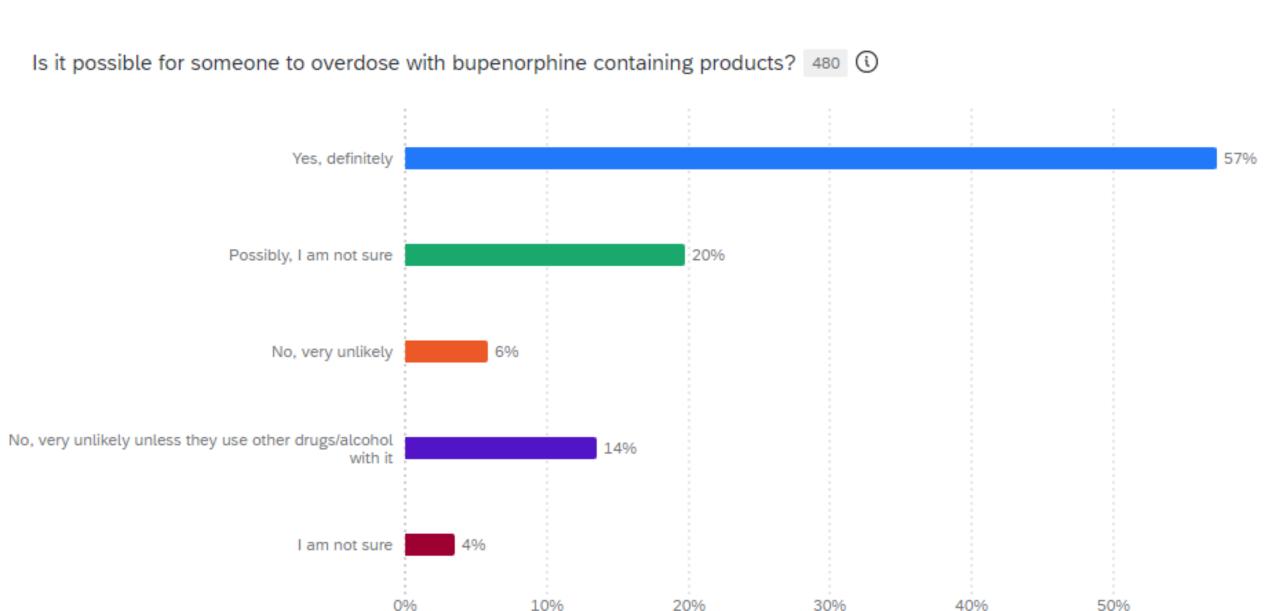


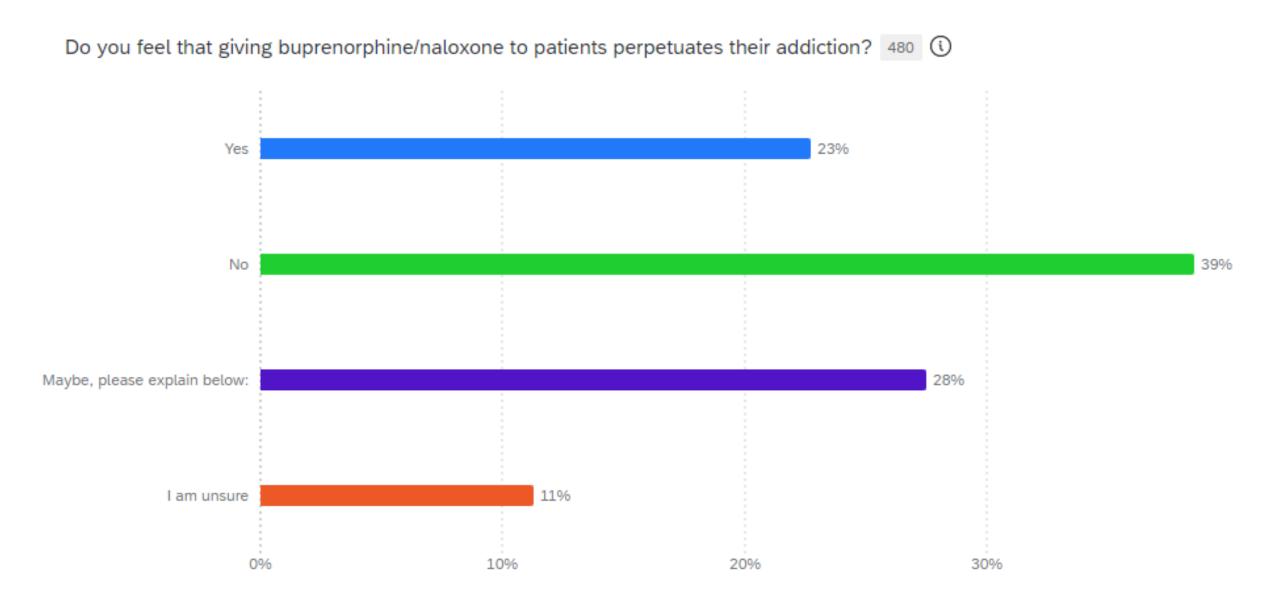
- Community Pharmacy- Independent Community Pharmacy- Large Corporation/Chain (i.e. CVS Corporation, Walgreens, Walmart, Rite Aid, Kroger Inc and A...
- Community Pharmacy- Small Corporation/Chain (i.e. Winn-Dixie, Publix, Fred's, etc.) Hospital Pharmacy- Outpatient/Ambulatory Care
- Hospital Pharmacy- Inpatient Pharmacy
 Other Patient Care Practice, please specify below:
 Other Non-Patient Care Practice, please specify below:



What is the mechanism of action for buprenorphine? 480 (1)

Q39 - What is the mechanism of action for buprenorphine?	Count ▼
I am unsure	5%
Opioid full agonist	6%
Opioid antagonist	9%
Opioid partial agonist	80%





When dispensing a new opioid prescription for a patient, do you feel it is appropriate as a pharmacist to discuss the addiction potential of these medications with the patient?

Yes (92%, 440)

When dispensing a new opioid prescription for a patient, do you discuss the addiction potential of these medications with the patient at least 90% of the time?

Yes (50%, 220) No (50%, 220)

When you do talk to patients, what do you discuss? (select all that apply) 220 (i)



- Overuse risk Long-term use risk Personal history of substance use disorder Family history of substance use disorder
- Prior rehabilitation for any type of drug or alcohol Personal medical history of mental health conditions Currently living/involved in a stressful circumstance
- Other, please specify below:

What are the reasons you do not discuss the addiction potential of opioids? (select all that apply) 260 🛈



- Other, please specify below:
 I do not want patients to think that I am judging them
 The provider should have already talked to patients about this
- I am afraid of the patient's reaction It makes me nervous to talk to patients about this Feel it is not my job to discuss this with a patient
- I do not fully understand the addiction potential of opioids

Have you ever talked to a patient that you feel is misusing or abusing their opioid prescription (calling in for refills early, losing their medication, etc.) about concerns you may have?

No (28%, 132)

Yes (73%, 348)

Pharmacy Stocking and Dispensing Questions

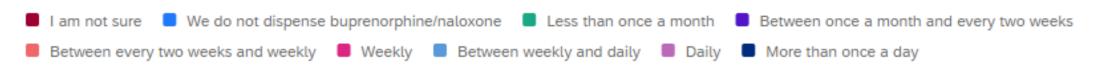
Does your pharmacy routinely stock buprenorphine/naloxone? 480 (1)

Yes (68%, 328) No (25%, 118)

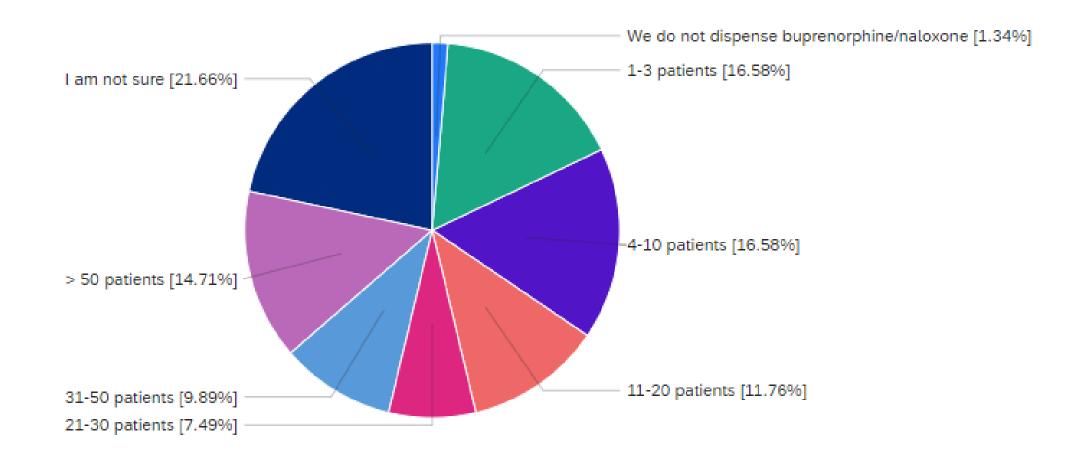
Yes No lam unsure

How often does the pharmacy you work in (the majority of the time) dispense buprenorphine/naloxone? 480 (1)





How many different patients receive buprenorphine/ naloxone in a month from the pharmacy you work at the majority of the time? (374)

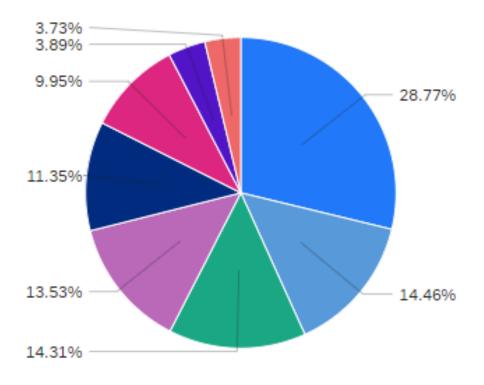


Personally, have you ever refused to fill or denied a prescription for buprenorphine/naloxone? 480 (1)

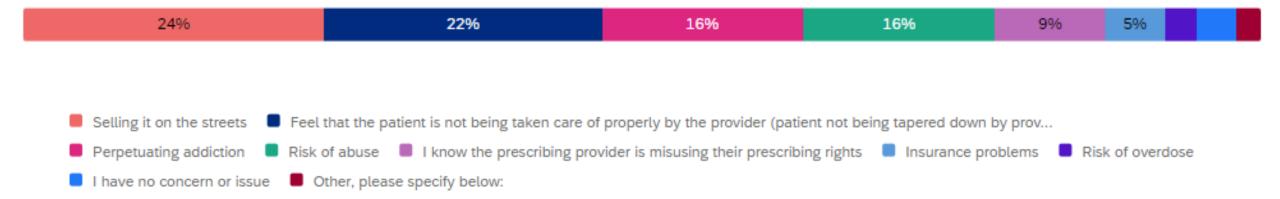
Yes (50%, 242) No (50%, 238)

When you refuse a buprenorphine/naloxone containing prescription, do you routinely refer those patients to another pharmacy? (242)





What is/are your major concern(s) or issue(s) with providing buprenorphine/naloxone to patients? (Please select your top three concerns) (242)

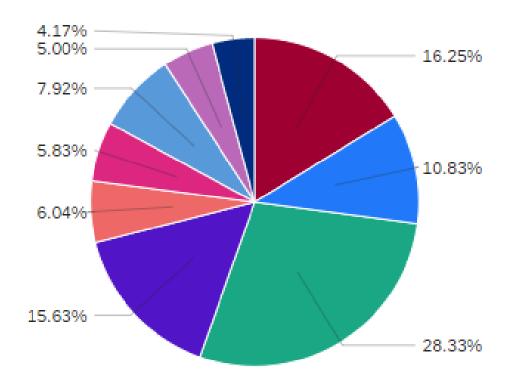


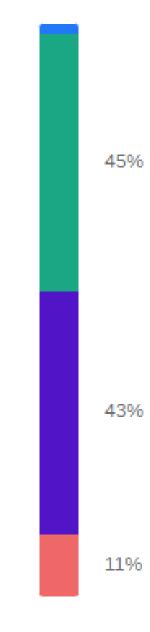
Have you ever visited a provider's office that takes care of substance use patients (that dispenses medications used for opioid use disorder or other substance use) or offered to have he/she come visit your pharmacy to foster a collaborative relationship?

Yes (14%) No (86%)

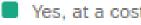
Have you ever visited a substance use rehabilitation facility or offered to have someone from their organization visit your pharmacy to foster a collaborative relationship?

Yes (12%) No (88%)











Which of the following major concerns (if any) do you have about providing syringes and/or needles? (Please sel...



In what ways have you potentially been a roadblock to patients with substance use disorder?

In what ways have you been an advocate for patients with substance use disorder?

Redemptive Mindset

- Choice vs Disease
- EDUCATION
- Counseling
- Collaboration
- Decreasing Fear
- · Assess your own Bias
- Having a Gospel-Centric Approach

Choice vs Disease

 The National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) describe addiction as:

Caused by a combination of behavioral, psychological, environmental and biological factors

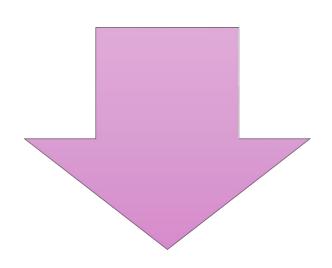
Genetic risk factors:
estimate 23-54%
hereditary for opioid use
disorder based on twin
and family studies

"A long-term and relapsing condition characterized by the individual compulsively seeking and using drugs despite adverse consequences"

Brain disorder

 Brain imaging studies of people with addiction show physical changes in areas of the brain that are critical to judgment, decision-making, learning and memory, and behavior control The changes are longterm and can continue long after the person has stopped using drugs

Risk and Protective Factors for Drug Use, Misuse, and Addiction

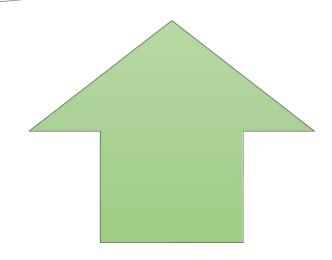


Risk Factors

- Aggressive behavior in childhood
- · Lack of parental supervision
- · Low peer refusal skills
- Drug experimentation/ availability of drugs at school
- Community poverty
- Genetic

Protective Factors

- Self-efficacy (belief in self-control)
- · Parental monitoring and support
- Positive relationships
- Extracurricular activities
- · School anti-drug policies
- · Neighborhood resources



Choice vs Disease

- Initial decision typically voluntary
- If viewed as a choice:
 - Self-acquired, the person gave to themself
 - Increased guilt, shame on patient
- If viewed as a disease:
 - Take burden off patient by understanding the change in brain
 - Realize stopping cold turkey typically never works
 - Treatable illness like diabetes, hypertension
 - · Some people look at patients as if they are holding onto an excuse

Education

- Pertinent to have knowledge on:
 - Mechanism of action
 - How medications work in treatment
 - Side effects
 - Potential for overdose
 - Possibility of misuse

Potential for overdose

Buprenorphine

Possibility when using other CNS depressants, especially benzodiazepines

- · Increased risk of respiratory and cardiovascular collapse
- · Signs and symptoms of overdose
 - · Confusion, dizziness, pinpoint pupils, hallucinations, hypotension, respiratory depression, seizures, coma
- · Requires naloxone bolus of 2–3 mg followed by continuous infusion of 4 mg/hour
 - · See full reversal within 40-60 minutes

Naltrexone

Possibility when trying to overcome blockade, at the end of a dosing interval, after missing a dose, after discontinuation

All

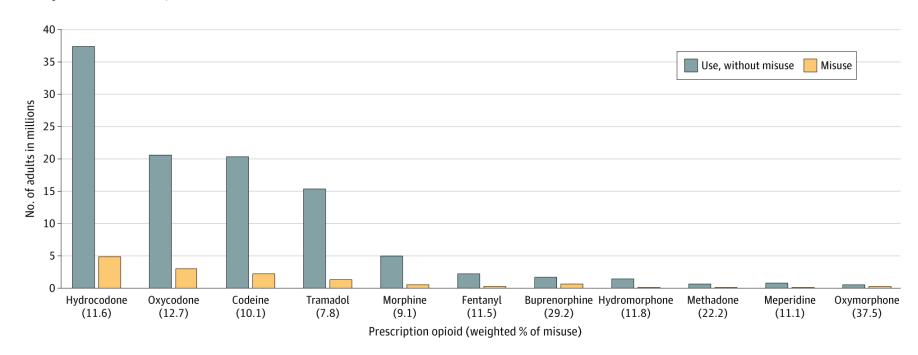
Meta-analysis of 30 cohort studies

- · Patients who discontinued medication (buprenorphine, methadone, or long-acting implant naltrexone)
 - · Higher risk of all-cause death (relative risk 2.33 [95% CI 2.02–2.67]) and overdose death (3.09 [95% CI 2.37–4.01]) than patients receiving medication

Possibility of misuse

- Recent study in JAMA 2021: Trends in and Characteristics of Buprenorphine Misuse among Adults in the US
- Used nationally representative data on past-year Rx opioid use, misuse, OUD and motivations
- From 2015–2019 National Survey on Drug use and Health
- 214,505 respondents

Figure 1. US Adults Who Reported Using or Misusing Prescription Opioids in the Past 12 Months (2019 Survey, 42739 respondents)





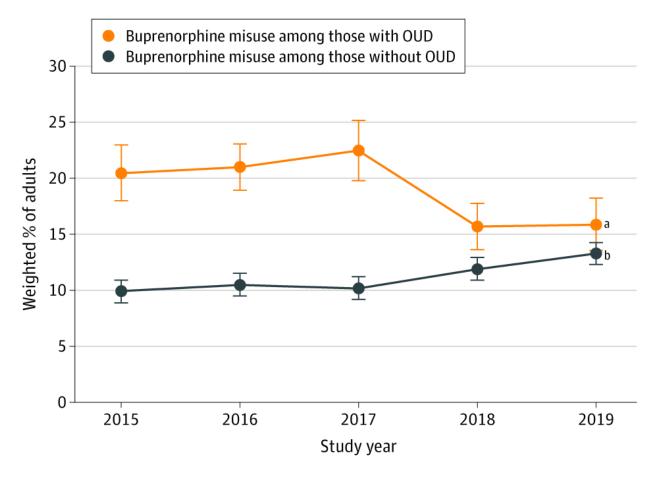


Figure Legend:

Trends in Prevalence of Past-Year Buprenorphine Misuse by Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) Status Among US Adults With Past-Year Buprenorphine Use

Data are from 2536 respondents in the 2015-2019 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health. Error bars indicate SEs.

^aLinear trend: P = .04.

^bLinear trend: P = .08.

5/31/2022

Misuse Factors

Factors associated with misuse:

With OUD diagnosis:

- · Age 24-34 and 35-49
- Residing in nonmetropolitan areas
- Having past-year polysubstance use and use disorders (past-year Rx stimulant use disorder)

Without OUD diagnosis:

- · 24-34 years old
- Past-year family income of <\$20,000
- · Having a suicide plan
- Polysubstance use and use disorders (for example- pastyear cocaine use disorder)

Negatively associated with misuse:

With OUD diagnosis:

 Past-year treatment for illicit drug use-only treatment

Without OUD diagnosis:

· Drug use-only treatment





Table 1. Differences in Main Motivation Between the Most Recent Buprenorphine Misuse and Nonbuprenorphine Prescription Opioid Misuse by Past-Year Buprenorphine Misuse and OUD Status

	OUD status, weighted % (95% CI) ^a			
	OUD		No OUD	
Main motivation for misuse	Nonbuprenorphine prescription misuse (n = 1382)	Buprenorphine misuse (n = 233)	Nonbuprenorphine prescription misuse (n = 7898)	Buprenorphine misuse (n = 213)
Relieve physical pain	52.2 (47.6-56.8) ^b	20.5 (14.0-29.0) ^{b,c}	66.6 (65.0-68.2) ^c	29.3 (21.2-39.1) ^{b,c}
Relax or relieve tension	8.9 (7.0-11.1)	3.7 (1.6-8.3) ^{b,c}	10.5 (9.4-11.7)	6.8 (3.2-14.0)
Experiment	1.4 (0.7-2.7)	1.6 (0.5-5.4)	2.4 (2.1-2.8)	8.5 (4.9-14.3) ^{b,c}
Feel good or get high	17.1 (14.4-20.2) ^b	9.4 (5.9-14.6) ^c	10.3 (9.4-11.3) ^c	18.1 (11.5-27.4) ^b
Help with my feelings or emotions	6.3 (4.8-8.2) ^b	8.2 (3.4-18.6) ^{b,d}	2.6 (2.1-3.2) ^c	11.7 (5.8-22.2) ^{b,d}
Increase/decrease effect(s) of other drugs	1.2 (0.3-4.4) ^d	15.1 (9.5-23.1) ^{b,c}	0.5 (0.3-0.8)	3.6 (2.2-5.9) ^b
Because I am hooked	7.8 (6.2-9.9) ^b	27.3 (21.6-33.8) ^{b,c}	0.2 (0.1-0.3) ^c	12.7 (7.3-21.2) ^b

Abbreviation: OUD, opioid use disorder.

- Data are from 9726 respondents in the 2015-2019
 National Surveys on Drug Use and Health.
- ^b This estimate is statistically significantly (*P* < .05) different from the estimate of the corresponding adults with nonbuprenorphine prescription opioid misuse but no OUD (within each row).
- ^c This estimate is statistically significantly (*P* < .05) different from the estimate of the corresponding adults with nonbuprenorphine opioid misuse and with OUD (within each row).
- d Interpret with caution owing to low statistical precision.

Buprenorphine Diversion-Limited Harm?

Unintentional drug overdose: Is more frequent use of nonprescribed buprenorphine associated with lower risk of overdose?

> Study by RG Carlson, et al. (2020)

356 participants, 18 yo or older

Recruited in Dayton, Ohio

89% white, 50.3% male; 25.8% employed; mean age 39.2 years

54.8% considered themselves homeless in past 6 months 5/31/2022 Overdose experience

27% (n = 98) reported overdose (OD) in the previous six months

62.3% reported at least one prior OD

· 95.5% of ODs due to heroin/nonprescribed fentanyl or non-prescribed opioids Drug Use Characteristics

Close to 90% reported using non-prescribed buprenorphine for self-treatment of withdrawal symptoms

56.9% reported selling buprenorphine to someone else and 47.9% giving buprenorphine prescribed to them to someone else

Over the previous six months, non-prescribed buprenorphine was used 14.6% of the days on average (26.9 days), heroin/non-prescribed fentanyl a mean of 56.4% days, cocaine/crack 19% of days, and methamphetamine 11.9% of days

65% reported injection as their most frequent route of heroin/non-prescribed fentanyl use

Treatment or incarceration

About half (50.6%) had been in substance use treatment in the past six months

Almost 31% had been incarcerated

Psychiatric comorbidities

59% had at least one of the following three in the past year:

Generalized anxiety disorder (45.5%)

Major depressive disorder (34.3%)

PTSD (27.5%)

Buprenorphine Diversion-Limited Harm?

Results:

Higher mean percentage of days of non-prescribed buprenorphine use in past six months significantly associated with:

 Decreased risk of overdose (OD) in past 6 months in both unadjusted and adjusted analyses (AOR = 0.81, 95% CI = 0.66, 0.98; p = .0286)

Secondary analyses showed

Individuals who used non-prescribed buprenorphine for more than 5.4% of days (10) had 33% lower odds of OD

Taking buprenorphine for 2-3 days out of 6 months reduced odds of OD by 20% compared to just 1 day

Linear trend showed more buprenorphine use resulted in greater reduction in odds of OD

Greater frequency of use of non prescribed buprenorphine is strongly associated with lower frequency of use of heroin/fentanyl

Lower frequency of use of heroin/fentanyl is strongly associated with lower risk of overdose

Patient Counseling

Genetics

- Estimates of 23–54% hereditary for opioid use disorder based on twin and family studies

Risk for overdose

Depending on medication

Engagement in meetings

- NarcoticsAnonymous
- Heroin Anonymous

Engagement with sponsor/support

Collaboration

Know your providers who work with substance use disorders

Know your treatment centers near your pharmacy

Collaborate with clinics and providers

- Study by Wu, et al- 2021
 - · 3 buprenorphine treatment clinics & 3 community pharmacists
 - · 88.7% treatment retention and 95.3% adherence at end of study

Be involved

- Help increase access for patients
- Patient education
- Adoption of legislation
- Volunteer!

Decreasing Fear

Empathy, compassion and respect

Using nonstigmatizing language Non-verbal communication skills

Verbal communication skills

Asking the hard questions

Realizing it's okay if someone gets upset; little risk

You could be the only one who cares

Develop a store policy

Giving clean needles does not perpetuate addiction

Assess your own bias

Know yourself and your own history with addiction or member of addiction community

Educate yourself on addiction

Be aware of your role as a professional and how you carry yourself \rightarrow don't abuse that power

Stay alert to what informs your opinions (media, friends, family...)

Have humility

Having a Gospel-centric approach

Realize trauma may be part of their story

Identify what you are responsible for

Accepting them as they are

Connection between trauma and addiction- Adverse Childhood Experiences

Can not shield them from natural consequences

We all are made in the image of God

Compassion

Professional intervention

We all have an invitation from Jesus

Inform your way of communication

Setting boundaries

Restorative power in Jesus's healing, even if they fail

5/31/2022

Having a Gospel-centric approach

Invite them into your community

· Church, Homes, I.D. Recovery/ Celebrate Recovery

Prayer→ constantly:

· Your motives are loving and glorifying to God, for good discernment, for desires of their heart to change and lead to repentance

What if Christ were wearing the white coat?

Romans 2:1-4

In what other ways might you have more of a redemptive mindset towards patients with opioid use disorder?

Let's pause and reflect and plan together!

Think about the answer you provided to the roadblocks you have potentially caused for your patients, what steps can you take to increase your knowledge and empathy towards patients struggling with opioid use disorder?

Questions?

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