



# The National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment

~Keeping you informed~



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This is an interactive Newsletter. As you scroll over the Newsletter, if the hand turns into a pointing finger, that means – with a click of your mouse – your browser will open to the website which relates to that item.

**Help pay for treatment by taking  
research surveys, while dispelling myths  
about buprenorphine treatment.**

**Physicians and counselors – please tell your  
buprenorphine patients about this opportunity.**

**Ongoing Buprenorphine-Patient survey: [click here](#)**

## We are allowing the critics and the uninformed to frame the discussion about medication-assisted treatment.

In the last 12 months we've seen increasing negative hype about buprenorphine which culminated in last year's front-page *Sunday New York Times* piece, "[Addiction Treatment with a dark side](#)", and more recently *The Christian Monitor* article "[Drugs for treating heroin users: a new abuse problem in the making?](#)" Smaller papers, bloggers, and social media continue to provide misinformation thus contributing to the confusion. Also disturbing, a growing number of journalists are content assigning equal credibility to a scientific consensus as to an anonymous individual.

Consequences from this coverage are serious and growing. Patients who need lifesaving addiction treatment are now foregoing treatment due to the fear, inaccuracies and skepticism of evidence-based addiction treatments that these articles convey. Others discontinue treatment prematurely, only to relapse soon after. This is particularly alarming considering that [according to the CDC](#) over 40 people a day die from prescription opioid overdose. Compare that with the 40 people per year claimed to be attributed, in part, to buprenorphine, and it's clear that the greater risk lies with untreated addiction, not treatment. If this isn't tragic enough, legislators are about to make it even worse.

- In direct response to the NYT article ([quoted Senator](#)), the Massachusetts State Senate, unanimously passed bill ([S.1926](#)) which places more restrictions, mandates, and regulations on buprenorphine treatment. This makes doctors even less likely to tolerate the unusual and mounting regulatory burden subject to buprenorphine providers.

**Go to the [NAABT.org](#) home page  
for links to current surveys  
conducted by researchers.**

*These confidential surveys often pay an honorarium (usually \$25-\$100) which can be applied toward treatment costs. But beyond the money, patient voices need to be heard now more than ever.*

*Recent media coverage of buprenorphine exaggerates and mischaracterizes the risks and benefits of the treatment.*

*These surveys will gather facts to counter the erroneous assumptions made by the media.*

naabt.org

Patients and Prescribing Physicians.



Patients and prescribing physicians can now order a free "in case of emergency" wallet card that alert healthcare workers that buprenorphine can affect opioid pain medication.

The card also lists a link to this web page: [www.naabt.org/emergency](http://www.naabt.org/emergency) with important relevant links useful if opioid pain treatment becomes necessary. Simply email us a mailing address to send the card to at [MakeContact@naabt.org](mailto:MakeContact@naabt.org)

### Buprenorphine Side Effects

See our new [buprenorphine side effects page](#). Anticipate common side effects and prevent them with the remedies and strategies used by others.

### Purpose of Buprenorphine

A clear understanding of the problem and the treatment, will lead to realistic expectations and better outcomes. [Purpose of buprenorphine treatment](#)

### Save Money on Buprenorphine Treatment

Find out ways to save money to make treatment more affordable here. [15 ways to save money on buprenorphine treatment](#).

**Ongoing Buprenorphine  
Patient survey:  
[click here](#)**

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- Citing the NYT article, Ohio is considering [burdensome oversight](#) in an attempt to micromanage physicians, requiring such things as mandatory witnessed urine testing; dose limits and prescription frequency restrictions; attendance at 12-step groups at least **3 times per week**; and more. Although, some of this may be appropriate for some patients, mandating it for all will discourage patients from treatment and providers from providing. The predictable result will be more self-medicating (thus more people seeking diverted buprenorphine), higher cost, and less treatment access.
- In 2012 West Virginia outlawed bup/nx in tablet form...as if that was the problem. Oddly, the buprenorphine tablets without the naloxone safeguard remained legal. This nonsense was [repealed](#) this year, but while in effect, it limited patients' options and priced some out of this lifesaving treatment entirely.

Perhaps most troubling is that the majority of the recent articles squander the opportunity to improve understanding and arm patients with genuine facts so that they can make better decisions about their lives. Few articles end with action steps for someone suffering from addiction. Hype and fear otherwise be imparted on readers and perhaps save lives.

The [ongoing patient surveys](#) are one effort to gather facts which will hopefully provide some evidence to counter the mischaracterization of buprenorphine treatment and put diversion and abuse in context with the substantial benefits. Please take the surveys and/or tell your patients about them. Ongoing surveys are always posted on the home page of NAABT.org.

## New Buprenorphine Product FDA Approved

**Bunavail (Bup/Nx) FDA approved 6/6/14**

BioDelivery Sciences International (BDSI) recently announced their buprenorphine/naloxone product was FDA approved for the treatment of opioid addiction.

Bunavail™, a buprenorphine/naloxone buccal film, adheres to the inside of the cheek. It has double the bioavailability of Suboxone Film and hence half the dose for equal result. This lower dose may result in reduced side effects.

Bunavail becomes the 5th brandname medication subject to the DATA-2000 legislation which allows doctors to use buprenorphine to treat opioid addiction. It follows Subutex® tablets, Suboxone® tablets, Suboxone Film, and Zubsolv® tablets.

[Click here to read the official Press Release](#)

## TreatmentMatch.org

### TreatmentMatch.org

If you need to help someone find treatment, TreatmentMatch is a free and anonymous way to help. People seeking treatment can reach out 24/7. 62,351 have been connected to one or more of the 3,952 participating physicians so far.

[Patients register](#)

[Physicians register](#)



**Voluntary Disclosure:** Funding for this organization is provided by anonymous donors whose lives were touched by evidence-based addiction treatment and were willing to contribute to the cause. In past years NAABT, Inc. has also asked for and received funding from pharmaceutical companies in the form of "Unrestricted Educational Grants." The grants were "unrestricted" so that there were no "strings" attached. NAABT, Inc. has complete control over how funds are used, there are no restrictions on the content or mission of this site, and donors have no control over the content of the site or NAABT's activities. NAABT, Inc. is solely responsible for all of its activities. We provide a source for educational information, plus a tool for helping patients connect with physicians.

We will strive to remain a non biased, reputable, and accurate source for those seeking information on evidence-based addiction treatments.

Buprenorphine is not a cure nor a miracle medication, but a new and effective tool in fighting opioid addiction. Medication is only a small part of a comprehensive recovery plan.

[Click here](#) to learn more about NAABT.

The National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed to help people, in need of treatment, find treatment providers who are willing and able to treat opioid dependency in the privacy of a doctor's office. Our website offers answers to frequently asked questions, actual patient experiences, information on the history and treatments of opioid addiction, current news on the subject and more. [Donate](#)

This newsletter is provided to keep you informed on matters relating to Buprenorphine Treatment. Please feel free to contact us at [newsletter@naabt.org](mailto:newsletter@naabt.org) with feedback, suggestions, or perhaps you would like to contribute a story. Also feel free to photocopy or print as many as these newsletters as you wish for distribution.

To add yourself or someone you know to the mailing list, please either write us or email us at [subscribe@naabt.org](mailto:subscribe@naabt.org).

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