

Suboxone

Office-based Opioid
Replacement Therapy



Why treat opiate dependence ?

- Increased health risks in opiate addiction
 - Related to injection, risky behaviors
- 45,000 New Mexicans need drug addiction treatment
- Dona County has 10% of state people
 - Over 4,500 county residents need drug treatment
- New Mexico has highest rate of drug related deaths in nation
 - Twice national rate
 - Combination of drugs, not a single large dose

NM Patterns of Use

- Pain pill addiction highest in southern NM
 - Half are age 25 or under
- Heroin use high in Hispanic population
 - Many introduced by family
- Opiate dependent persons can remain in community
 - Return to work, responsibilities quickly
- Lack of resources for inpatient treatment

Methadone

- Introduced in 1960's
- Limited to methadone clinics
 - Close monitoring
- Less than 25% receive treatment
 - Stigma
 - Limited access
 - Availability of clinics
 - Daily visits
 - Cash only
- Addictive
- Harsh withdrawals

Buprenorphine

- Approved for opiate replacement in 2000
- Partial agonist at *mu* receptor, antagonist at kappa receptor
- Has analgesic properties
- Two sublingual forms for replacement therapy
 - Suboxone: Buprenorphine combined with naloxone
 - 2mg\0.5 mg or 8mg\2 mg
 - Subutex: buprenorphine only
 - 2 mg and 8 mg

Buprenorphine advantages

- Will displace and block other opioids
- Low abuse potential
 - Naloxone combination
- Less withdrawal symptoms
- Greater safety
 - Ceiling effect (low potential for respiratory depression)
- Prescribed from physicians office on waiver license
 - Requires 8 hour training
- Medicaid and insurance will pay for it

How Suboxone Works

- Therapy initiated when patient in withdrawal
- Suppresses withdrawal symptoms
- Decreases craving
- Has very limited euphoria
- Long duration of action

Precautions

- Need stable living situation
- Need support system
 - Recommend self-help group or counseling
- Avoid benzos, alcohol
- Avoid pregnancy
 - Use Subutex
- Limit to one pharmacy

Current Status

- Three prescribers
- First patient late July 2007
- Referred by
 - Others in program
 - Providers
 - Suboxone.com website
 - Transferred from other Suboxone prescribers
- Currently 140+ on Suboxone or Subutex
- Trained and Co-managed by Project ECHO
 - Weekly teleconference
 - Available by phone for consultation

Goals of Treatment

- Abstinence from opiates
- Decrease use of other drugs
 - Marijuana
 - Alcohol
 - Tobacco
- Harm reduction
- Build healthy support system

Information/Referral

- Suboxone.com
- Community Wellness
 - 528-5053
 - 528-6007 Meribeth Hauenstein
 - 528-5186 Shelly Noe