NIDA/SAMHSA Blending Initiative Overview: A Focus on Medication-Assisted Treatment

Thomas E. Freese, Ph.D., & Beth Rutkowski, M.P.H.
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What’s the Issue?

• A significant delay exists between the publication of research results and impact on treatment delivery*

• To reduce the gap, NIDA and SAMHSA/CSAT have partnered to disseminate research findings for application in the treatment community through the Blending Initiative

NIDA/SAMHSA

Blending Initiative

According to Webster’s Dictionary definition

To **Blend** means:

a. combine into an integrated whole;

b. produce a harmonious effect

http://www.merriam-webster.com/dictionary/blend
What is the Blending Initiative?

• GOAL: To move important scientific findings into mainstream addiction treatment

• Developed in 2001, NIDA and SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment came together to work on a common vision:
  – Improve substance use disorder treatment and accelerate the dissemination of research-based findings into community-based practice.
Addiction Technology Transfer Center Network

www.attcnetwork.org
The NIDA/SAMHSA Blending Initiative encompasses three components:

- Regional Blending Conferences
- State Agency Partnerships
- Blending Teams
Regional Blending Conferences

• Enhance bi-directional communication among:
  • researchers,
  • practitioners,
  • and policy-makers
• Share innovative scientific findings about drug abuse and addiction
• Convene in different regions of the country
State Agency Partnerships

- NIDA and SAMHSA work closely with federal and state policy-makers to help identify strategies to accelerate the adoption of science-based practices.
Blending Teams

• Use NIDA research findings to design user-friendly science-based tools for use in treatment settings soon after research results are published.

• Teams include members from:
  – SAMHSA-CSAT Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network,
  – NIDA researchers, and
  – Community treatment providers participating in the NIDA Drug Abuse Treatment Clinical Trials Network (CTN).
Blending Process

Selected CTN protocols or other NIDA Research

Hand-Off Meeting
Create the charge for Blending Team

Blending Team
Develop dissemination strategies and products
Current Blending Initiative Packages

- Short-Term Opioid Withdrawal Using Buprenorphine
- Buprenorphine Treatment: A Training for Multidisciplinary Addiction Professionals
- Buprenorphine Treatment for Young Adults
- Treatment Planning M.A.T.R.S.: Utilizing the Addiction Severity Index (ASI) to Make Required Data Collection Useful
- Motivational Interviewing Assessment: Supervisory Tools for Enhancing Proficiency (MIA:STEP)
- Motivational Incentives Suite
Blending Initiative Packages
Available in Spanish
A Focus on Medication-Assisted Treatment

BUPRENORPHINE/NALOXONE
Buprenorphine Treatment: A Training for Multidisciplinary Addiction Professionals

Goal: to disseminate information and enhance awareness among multi-disciplinary addiction professionals about buprenorphine treatment

Buprenorphine Treatment: A Training for Multidisciplinary Addiction Professionals

Products in Package:

– 6-hour classroom training including a training manual, PowerPoint slides, and the short movie, “Put Your Smack Down! A Video About Buprenorphine”

– Annotated bibliography and research articles
Short-Term Opioid Withdrawal Using Buprenorphine

Goal: to instruct treatment providers about the 13-day buprenorphine intervention

Product in Package:
- 4-hour classroom training program including PowerPoint slides and a CD
Results: Present and Opioid Negative 0001 (Inpatient)

- Present
- Opioid Negative

% of Individuals present at end of taper

% of opioid free urines

Day 3-4
Day 7-8
Day 10-11
Day 13-14

Clonidine
Bup/Nx
Results: Present and Opioid Negative 0002 (Outpatient)

% of Individuals present at end of taper vs % of opioid free urines for Clonidine and Bup/Nx.

- Day 3-4: 20% present, 10% opioid free
- Day 7-8: 30% present, 30% opioid free
- Day 10-11: 30% present, 30% opioid free
- Day 13-14: 30% present, 30% opioid free

Comparison of Clonidine and Bup/Nx treatments over different days.
Goal: to present the results of a buprenorphine trial conducted with young adults.

Product in Package: 3-hour classroom training program including PowerPoint slides and a CD
Results: Opioid Positive Urine Tests
Buprenorphine-Related Blending Initiative Products

OUTCOMES
The ATTC Network has:

- Completed 764 Blending Product Trainings from January 2005-September 2011 (with a total of 15,958 people)
  - 134 Buprenorphine Treatment (3,317 people)
  - 18 Short Term Opioid Withdrawal Using Buprenorphine (801 people)
  - 22 Buprenorphine for Young Adults (318 people)
The ATTC Network has:

- Printed and distributed 567,000 brochures introducing each of the Blending Initiatives materials to the field
- Recruited and prepared trainers in every ATTC Region to teach the Blending Initiative materials
- Developed and distributed ancillary products to enhance the reach of the official NIDA products, such as curriculum infusion packages for addiction studies educators at colleges and universities.
The ATTC Network has:

- Presented information on the Blending Initiative at State, Regional, and National conferences to:
  - Increase awareness about the training materials
  - Identify new opportunities to train using the blending products
Products Currently Under Development

1. MI:PRESTO (Motivational Incentives: Positive Reinforcers to Enhance Successful Treatment Outcomes)
2. POATS (Prescription Opioid Addiction Treatment Study)**
3. Onsite HIV Rapid Testing Blending Initiative
Product Dissemination

Download the Products for FREE!

Find upcoming trainings offered through SAMHSA’s ATTC Network!

Go to http://www.attcnetwork.org/blendinginitiative
For more information

Thomas E. Freese, Ph.D.
310-267-5397
tfreese@mednet.ucla.edu

Beth A. Rutkowski, M.P.H.
310-388-7647
brutkowski@mednet.ucla.edu