



# BUPRENORPHINE NEWSLETTER



## BUPRENORPHINE MISUSE AND DIVERSION

### **Buprenorphine Diversion Has Surprising Benefits**

Regardless of motivating factors, buprenorphine is safe relative to other opioids. Non-prescription use is actually associated with a [reduced risk of drug overdose](#) among people with opioid use disorder.

Furthermore, prior experience with non-prescribed buprenorphine is [strongly predictive of treatment retention](#) for those who eventually enter medical treatment.

### **Even Diverted Buprenorphine Treats Addiction**

Buprenorphine diversion is largely a consequence of high barriers to legal treatment. The vast majority of people who use non-prescribed buprenorphine do so either to manage withdrawal symptoms or to achieve or maintain abstinence from other opioids.

[Buprenorphine in the United States: Motives for abuse, misuse, and diversion](#)

### **Buprenorphine is Available in a Misuse Deterrent Formulation**

Buprenorphine is typically prescribed as a combination medication containing the opioid receptor antagonist naloxone. When medication is used as directed, naloxone is not absorbed. When medication is crushed or injected, naloxone is absorbed and blocks buprenorphine. This formulation reduces misuse potential.

[Effects of buprenorphine/naloxon in opioid-dependent humans](#)

### **Demystifying buprenorphine misuse: Has fear of diversion gotten in the way of addressing the opioid crisis?**

[Read the Paper](#)  
[Listen to the Podcast](#)



### **Get Your X-Waiver**

With an X-Waiver, any Physician, APN, or PA can prescribe Buprenorphine to treat opioid use disorder. Treat up to 30 patients at a time with no special training or complete a free training to increase your patient limit. [Get Waivered. Save Lives.](#)

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HMH Post Acute Opioid Taskforce  
Population Health Initiative



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