



Practicalities and Patient Experience

Depot Buprenorphine in a General Practice setting



AHS Experience So Far.....



- Small numbers of patients- 7
- Lower complexity
- 2 transferred from the ADS already on depot
- 1 from prison
- 3 transferred from suboxone and 1 from methadone via suboxone
- 6/7 have remained on depot

Patient factors



- Convenience removal of daily dosing
 - Cost
 - Stability and getting back to normality
 - Avoids contact with others on pharmacotherapy
 - Feel better?
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- Missing the routine of going to the pharmacy
 - Regular therapeutic contact
 - Injections

Practice Organisation



Direct from HCL

- No prescription
- No cost >5
- Next day delivery
- S8 compliant
- Range of doses
- Storage

Pharmacy

- Needs script
- Cost to the patient
- Courier S8
- Ordering system

Practice Organisation 2



- Storage
- Recording
- Stock-keeping
- Who gives the injection?
- Reminders?
- Late arrivals

Prescriber factors



- GP/Practice staff have the therapeutic relationship with infrequent contact
- Be aware of this medication – DORA may only have the Authority listed not the medication as linked to dispensing
- Consider interactions particularly other CNS depressants
- Issues with analgesia speak to a specialist if considering opioid analgesics on top
- Making sure it is listed in summaries including MeHR

Patient experience



“Best thing that has happened to me”

“Clear headed”

“I miss going to the pharmacy- it’s just what I do...”

“I’ve got my freedom back”