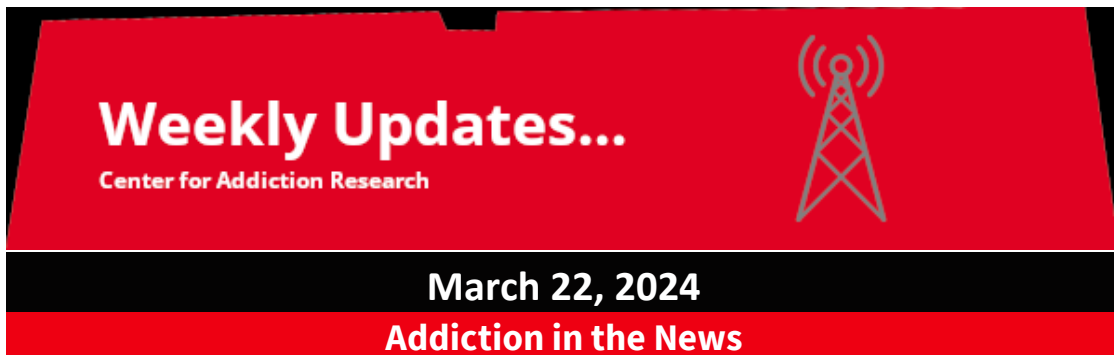


UC CAR Weekly Newsletter 3.22.2024

Welcome to the weekly newsletter from the Center for Addiction Research! Each newsletter includes highlights from addiction in the news topics, active funding opportunities offered by NIDA/NIAAA, and information about any new publications from CAR members. Please email Jen Rowe (roweji@ucmail.uc.edu) to change your communication preferences. Thank you.

Thank you for your interest in the Center for Addiction Research - our mission is to accelerate scientific progress in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders and their consequences by fostering research collaborations across: 1) UC departments, colleges, and centers including Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center; 2) Local, regional, and state community and governmental partners; and 3) Other academic institutions and industry."



UC/ Regional News

Wall Street Journal: Inside the fight against school vaping

According to a Wall Street Journal [article], although “federal data show e-cigarette use dropped slightly among high-schoolers last year, teen vaping remains a serious concern among public-health officials, who say it can be highly addictive and can affect adolescent brain development.” The article highlights efforts being made by school officials to crack down on vaping to include using sensors and tobacco and marijuana sniffing canines over concern that vaping impedes success later in life. “There is mounting evidence that vaping among teens can lead to nicotine addiction during this critical developmental period and follow them into adulthood,” tobacco and addiction expert Ashley Merianos... **(Dr. Ashley Merianos, CAR Member)**

Annual Hamilton County report shows downward trend in overdose deaths

HAMILTON COUNTY, Ohio — The annual Hamilton County Addiction Response Coalition report shows a downward trend in overdose deaths. Millions of new funds from the opiate settlement with the pharmaceutical industry will further help the community fight the epidemic. With serious work still to be done in the fight against opioid addiction, community advocates and organizations now have a beacon of hope in the battle, with new grants from the Ohio One Recovery Foundation. "It's an opportunity for those groups in the community who are really providing services for folks who need behavioral health support, prevention, treatment and recovery," executive director with Ohio One Recovery...

Overdose deaths in Ohio continued to rise in 2023: Top 5 counties hardest hit

COLUMBUS, Ohio — The opioid epidemic continues to wreak havoc in Ohio, with overdose deaths reaching record levels in 2023. According to provisional data from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), more than 111,000 people lost their lives, nationwide, due to drug overdoses in the 12-month period ending in April. Ohio witnessed 2,265 overdose deaths in 2023. This grim milestone underscores the urgent need for comprehensive intervention and community support. Main Drug of Choice: While overdose deaths involving heroin and benzodiazepines decreased, fentanyl-related fatalities continued to rise. Top 5 Counties in Ohio with Highest Overdose Death Rates: Scioto County...

Kentucky should reconsider using psychedelics to treat opioid addiction, attorney general says

FRANKFORT, Ky. (AP) — Kentucky's new attorney general, Russell Coleman, has urged a commission tasked with fighting drug abuse to "step back" from a proposal to invest in a psychedelic drug as a possible treatment for opioid addiction. When the Republican's predecessor was in office, the commission had considered dipping into the state's massive opioid lawsuit settlement to study the use of ibogaine — a psychedelic with an international following that remains a Schedule 1 drug in the U.S. — with the goal of gaining federal approval to distribute it as a medication to treat opioid addiction. Speaking to the Kentucky Opioid Abatement Advisory Commission, Coleman said the state has to...

WKYT Investigates | Ky. opioid prescription dispensing rates still among highest in country

HAZARD, Ky. (WKYT) - Despite progress being made on many fronts in the fight against opioid misuse and abuse, Kentucky's opioid prescription dispensing rates are still among the highest in the country, numbers show. Opioid dispensing rates have declined across the board - and declined steadily from a national rate of 46.8 opioid prescriptions dispensed per 100 persons in 2019 to a rate of 39.5 in 2022 (the most recent year for which data is currently available), according to data from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. ...Yet, even as policies put in place in the last decade-plus tightened restrictions on the highly-addictive medication and limited how much of it that patients can get at one time, Kentucky's...

National News

Alcohol use disorder linked to increased odds of suicide mortality

Alcohol use disorder (AUD) is associated with suicide mortality, with a similar association seen across the sexes, according to a review and meta-analysis published online March 12 in JAMA Network Open. Shannon Lange, M.P.H., Ph.D., from the Center for Addiction and Mental Health in Toronto, and colleagues estimated the sex-specific association between AUD and suicide mortality in a systematic review and meta-analysis. Data were obtained from 24 studies with

37,870,699 participants (23 risk estimates for male and 17 for female participants). The researchers found that for both male and female...

Alcohol policies need sharper focus on gender, WHO says

LONDON, March 8 (Reuters) - The World Health Organization on Friday urged governments to consider gender when developing their alcohol policies, warning that industry marketing increasingly targeted women who face greater health risks than men from lower levels of drinking. The Geneva-based WHO said that there was good evidence that men, women and minority groups were affected differently by alcohol-related harms and that the industry tailored its marketing to target different genders. "Despite this ... alcohol control policies remain largely gender blind," it said, calling on governments to consider...

Study finds low social status increases risk of health conditions from alcohol problems

Men and women with lower income or education levels are more likely to develop medical conditions related to alcohol abuse compared to similar individuals with a higher socioeconomic status. Alexis Edwards of Virginia Commonwealth University, US, and colleagues report these findings in a new study published in the open access journal PLOS Medicine. The World Health Organization estimates that harmful alcohol use accounts for 5.1% of the global burden of disease and injury worldwide, and results in three million deaths each year. Excessive alcohol consumption can also take an economic...

Psilocybin therapy alters prefrontal and limbic brain circuitry in alcohol use disorder

A recent study published in Scientific Reports reveals new insights into how psilocybin-assisted therapy modifies brain function in people with alcohol use disorder (AUD). These changes suggest a potential mechanism behind the therapy's success and could point toward new avenues for treatment. Psilocybin is the psychoactive compound found in certain species of mushrooms, often referred to as "magic mushrooms," known for its ability to produce profound changes in consciousness, perception, and mood. Psilocybin-assisted therapy combines the administration of psilocybin with psychological support...

Delta-8-THC use reported by 11% of 12th graders in 2023

Approximately 11% of 12th-grade students across the United States reported past-year use of delta-8- tetrahydrocannabinol (delta-8-THC, or delta-8 for short), according to an analysis of data from the 2023 Monitoring the Future survey, which is funded by the National Institutes of Health. Delta-8 is a psychoactive substance that is typically derived from hemp, a variety of the Cannabis sativa plant. Delta-8 has intoxicating effects similar to delta-9-THC (delta-9), the primary THC component responsible for the "high" people may experience from using cannabis. The researchers measured delta-8 use for the first time in 2023...

Q&A: Lesbian, gay, and bisexual women found to smoke more and be less likely to quit

People who identify as lesbian, gay, and bisexual—particularly women—respond more positively to tobacco marketing, are more inclined to smoke cigarettes daily, and may have a more difficult time quitting, according to two studies by a Rutgers Health researcher. The studies published in the *Annals of LGBTQ Public and Population Health and Preventive Medicine Reports*, investigated how some among the LGBTQ population respond to tobacco marketing, how they use tobacco and their history of quitting using two large national datasets, including the Population Assessment of Tobacco and Health...

To vape or not to vape: When an e-cigarette tax has an impact

E-cigarettes have become a big concern for public health, especially when it comes to young people using these harmful products. The U.S. government has considered a tax on vaping products to discourage people, especially underage users, from vaping. A new study from the Cornell SC Johnson College of Business aims to determine how much of an impact a tax might have by analyzing behavior on a social media platform. In the paper "Smoke and Mirrors: Impact of E-cigarette Taxes on Underage Social Media Posting," published in *Marketing Science*, Vrinda Kadiyali, professor at the Samuel Curtis Johnson...

Teen use of disposable e-cigarettes linked to persistent use patterns

Among adolescents and young adults (AYAs), the use of disposable electronic cigarette devices is associated with increased risks for persistent e-cigarette use patterns, according to a study published online on March 11 in *Pediatrics*. Dae-Hee Han, Ph.D., from the University of Southern California Keck School of Medicine in Los Angeles, and colleagues conducted a prospective longitudinal study combining data from AYA cohorts from Southern California to examine whether use of disposable e-cigarettes is associated with future e-cigarette use patterns. A total of 403 AYAs (124 adolescents and 279 young adults) who...

Up in Smoke: What Happened to New Zealand's Tobacco Ban Plan?

Despite its diminutive size and geographic isolation, New Zealand has an international reputation for pragmatic and sensible political action. Just 6 days after a terrorist shot 51 people to death at two mosques in 2019, the government banned the sale of assault rifles and semi-automatic weapons. During the COVID-19 pandemic, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern's "team of 5 million" fought the virus with vaccinations, managed quarantines, and "kindness." The teamwork paid off. In 2020, the Bloomberg COVID Resilience Ranking designated New Zealand out of 53 countries as the "best place to be in the coronavirus..."

Could a vaccine stop deadly opioid overdoses? Promising research has begun.

The vaccination felt like most others — a slight pinprick in M.'s upper arm, followed by the application of a Band-Aid and advice to monitor the injection site for any unusual reactions. The vaccine, however, is unlike any other. It's not meant to protect against the coronavirus, or any germ, for that matter. It is meant to protect against a deadly opioid overdose. When M. (who requested that her full name not be used to protect her identity) got the shot this Tuesday, she became just the sixth person to receive it. "It's very powerful now that I think about it," she said of participating in the trial, just a few hours after getting...

Overdose deaths hit another record but show signs of leveling off

The U.S. recorded 107,941 drug overdose deaths in 2022, according to a new federal report — a total that marks an all-time record but also shows signs that the country's overdose rate may finally be leveling off after years of steady increase. The 2022 total marks only a slight increase from the drug death toll of 106,699 the year before, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The flattening of drug death rates could provide a rare glimmer of hope amid the bleak U.S. drug crisis, which has seen overdose rates rise inexorably for the past two decades and especially during the Covid-19...

Identifying risk of poor pain outcomes to steer patients to early interventions and avoid opioid overuse

For most people, recovering from an injury or surgery might require a short round of painkillers, but for about 1 in 10 people, pain can trigger protracted and escalating mental, physical and behavioral health problems. Identifying who is at risk of poor pain outcomes could help steer patients to early interventions that set them on a better course while also reducing the potential for opioid overuse. Now, a way to spot those at risk could be as simple as a two-question survey. In a study among patients at the Duke Integrated Pain and Wellness Program, researchers found that a carefully worded, short questionnaire...

Biden administration calls for greater access to overdose antidote

The White House on Wednesday launched a nationwide call for more training and better access to the lifesaving opioid overdose drug naloxone. Called the Challenge to Save Lives from Overdose, the initiative urges organizations and businesses to commit to train employees on how to use opioid overdose medications, to keep naloxone in emergency kits and to distribute the drug to employees and customers so they might save a life at home, work or in their communities. "Today, we're calling on organizations and businesses -- big and small, public and private -- across the country to help ensure all...

Laws that punish drug use during pregnancy likely lead to worse health outcomes for families: Study

Contrary to some claims, laws that criminalize or otherwise punish drug use during pregnancy are more likely to worsen rather than improve health outcomes, according to a paper by researchers at Columbia University Mailman School of Public Health. The study is the first to systematically review the literature on punitive prenatal drug laws—an increasingly common state policy strategy for addressing rising rates of prenatal drug use. The findings are published in the *International Journal on Drug Policy*. The authors collected data on the number of states with laws that explicitly allow criminal...

Kindness a Key Component of Treating Pregnant Patients With SUD, Experts Say

"Don't be mean." That advice might be seen as unnecessary for most doctor-patient relationships, but not for treating patients with substance use disorder (SUD), especially pregnant patients, according to Cara Poland, MD, MEd, of Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in East Lansing. "The bar is really low in addiction," she said Wednesday during a Manatt webinar on improving access to pregnancy and postpartum care for patients with opioid use disorder. "You just have to not be mean, because so many of these patients, because of their past experiences with the healthcare system -- they're..."

Rigid rules at methadone clinics are jeopardizing patients' path to recovery from opioid addiction

DETROIT — Every morning, Rebecca Smith, nursing a surgically repaired knee, carefully walks down the hallway of her brutalist brick apartment building, takes the elevator one floor to the lobby, and negotiates the sharply angled driveway outside. There, she waits for an Uber to take her to the last place she wants to go: her methadone clinic. It is her most despised ritual. Smith, 65, is a former medical assistant, a grandmother, and a widow. She has not used illegal drugs in over five years, thanks in large part to methadone, a common medication that is highly effective at treating opioid addiction. But methadone, which once...

The methadone clinic monopoly: Opioid treatment chains backed by private equity are fighting calls for reform

Private equity firms have acquired stakes in nearly one-third of all methadone clinics in recent years, gaining outside control of the U.S. addiction treatment industry even as the country's opioid epidemic has developed into a full-fledged public health crisis. A small handful of little-known financial institutions now has an ownership stake in 562 methadone clinics across the country, according to a first-of-its-kind STAT analysis. And in the past two years, large clinic chains backed by private equity firms have launched a lobbying blitz aimed at preserving their exclusive right to dispense methadone, a powerful...

California hospitals, advocates seek stable funding to retain behavioral health navigators

Health providers and addiction experts warn the funding structure is unstable for a California initiative that steers patients with substance use disorder into long-term treatment after they are discharged from emergency rooms, which has already led some critical employees to leave their jobs. Supporters of CA Bridge's behavioral health navigator program, which launched in 2022, say its reliance on one-time funding makes it hard for hospitals to retain navigators amid a growing drug crisis. In 2022, the most recent year for which data is available, 7,385 Californians died from opioid-related overdoses, of...

West Virginia city once battered by opioid overdoses confronts 'fourth wave'

From 2006 through 2014, more than 81 million painkiller pills were shipped to this city and surrounding rural Cabell County. The arrival of prescription opioids onto seemingly every block of Huntington, a city of about 46,000 people, augured the first wave of an overdose crisis. Heroin followed, then fentanyl. Residents remember Aug. 15, 2016, as the darkest day because on that afternoon and evening, 28 people overdosed in the city. But Huntington had shouldered collective trauma before. On Nov. 14, 1970, Southern Airways Flight 932 crashed into a hillside just outside Huntington, killing all 75 on board. The dead...

Appeals panel asks West Virginia court whether opioids distribution can cause a public nuisance

CHARLESTON, W.Va. -- A federal appeals court asked West Virginia's highest court Monday whether opioid distributions can cause a public nuisance as it reviews a landmark lawsuit against three major U.S. drug distributors accused of causing a health crisis in one of the state's counties. In July 2022, a federal judge in Charleston, West Virginia, ruled in favor of AmerisourceBergen Drug Co., Cardinal Health Inc. and McKesson Corp. The lawsuit accused them of distributing 81 million pills over eight years in Cabell County, which has been ravaged by opioid addiction. The verdict came nearly a year after closing arguments...

Oregon Measure 110 Wasn't a Failure. Rolling Back Drug Decriminalization Will Be.

In November 2020, nearly 60% of Oregon voters passed Ballot Measure 110, often referred to as "drug decriminalization," which reclassified schedule I-IV drug possession from a Class A misdemeanor to a Class E civil violation. The change took effect in February 2021. In the 3 years since, Oregon has received much sensationalized attention related to this, culminating most recently in the passage of House Bill 4002 through both houses of the state legislature and an almost certain end to decriminalization, pending governor sign-off. It is true that drug overdose deaths, driven by illicit fentanyl, have continued to increase in...

Brain stimulation shows promise in treating drug addiction

Today, neurostimulation is used to treat a variety of human disorders, including Parkinson's disease, tremor, obsessive-compulsive disorder and Tourette syndrome. A Mayo Clinic neurosurgeon and his colleagues believe one form of that treatment, called deep brain stimulation (DBS), is poised to solve one of the greatest public health challenges: drug addiction. "Drug addiction is a huge, unmet medical need," says Kendall Lee, M.D., Ph.D., who has published nearly 100 journal articles on DBS along with his colleagues. Key to treating it, he says, is cutting off the pleasurable "high" that comes with the...

Funding Opportunities



GRANTS & FUNDING

NIH Central Resource for Grants and Funding Information

[NOT-DA-24-018](#)

[Notice of Extension of the Expiration Date for PAR-21-320, "NIDA Research Education Program for Clinical Researchers and Clinicians \(R25 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)"](#)

[RFA-DA-25-004](#)

[Research on the Neuro-Immune Axis in the context of HIV and Substance Use \(R01 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[RFA-DA-25-005](#)

[Research on the Neuro-Immune Axis in the Context of HIV and Substance Use \(R21 Clinical Trial Not Allowed\)](#)

[NOT-DA-25-031](#)

[Notice of Special Interest \(NOSI\): Saving Lives: Integrating Overdose Education and Naloxone Distribution \(OEND\) into HIV Prevention and Care Settings for People Who Use Addictive Substances](#)

Other Funding Opportunity

American College of Neuropsychopharmacology ACNP 2024 Travel Awards

Deadline is April 18, 2024, by 5:00 PM Central Time

Each year the ACNP Education & Training Committee selects several early career investigators to attend the Annual Meeting as Travel Awardees. A travel award allows these outstanding early career scientists to attend the best meeting in the field of neuropsychopharmacology to meet and interact with senior leaders in the field and provides an invitation to the following four (4) ACNP Annual Meetings. Any

scientist worldwide is eligible to apply for a travel award. All candidates must complete a common online application and must be eligible in one of three applicant tiers: Clinical Student Level, Junior Level or Senior Level, in addition to required training and post-training limits. Additional information is available on the ACNP website at: Annual Meeting Travel Awards. Candidates from historically excluded groups in science and medicine are encouraged to apply. *Previous travel awardees are not eligible to apply. ACNP defines historically excluded groups as Blacks or African Americans, Hispanics or Latinos, American Indians or Alaska Natives, Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, and individuals who identify as LGBTQIA2S+.

UC Foundation Funding Opportunities

Please contact Carol Russell at (513) 556-6169 or carol.russell@uc.edu **at least 5 business days before the deadline**, prior to applying to the below opportunity, to ensure coordination and to facilitate assistance with approaches.

Visionary Grants Support Social Problem-Solving Methods that Use Psychology

Deadline: April 3, 2024

The American Psychological Foundation invites applications for its Visionary Grants program. The program seeds innovation in the field by supporting research, education, and intervention projects and programs that use psychology to solve social problems in the following priority areas: applying psychology to vulnerable, at-risk populations (e.g., serious mental illness, returning military, those who are incarcerated or economically disadvantaged); preventing violence; understanding the connection between behavior and health (e.g., wellness, diabetes, obesity); and understanding and eliminating stigma and prejudice (e.g., race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, and socioeconomic status). Additionally, the APA has requested funds from their fund at the Tides Foundation to support a 2024 Visionary Grant that is focused on furthering racial equity. Grants of up to \$20,000 will be awarded with preference given to pilot projects that, if successful, would be strong candidates for support from major federal and foundation funding agencies and “demonstration projects” that promise to generalize broadly to similar settings in other geographical areas and/or to different locations. Applicants must be a graduate students or early-career researchers (no more than 10 years postdoctoral) and affiliated with a nonprofit charitable, educational, or scientific institution or a governmental entity operating exclusively for charitable and educational purposes.

International Center for Responsible Gaming Invites Research Inquiries

Deadline: April 1, 2024 (Letters of Intent)

The International Center for Responsible Gaming is a global leader in supporting peer-reviewed, scientific research on gambling disorder and responsible gambling. The funder invites letters of intent for its large grants program. Grants range up to \$150,000 – up to \$75,000 a year for up to two years in support of research

investigating gambling disorder and responsible gambling. Eligible applicants include domestic or international, public, or private, and nonprofit or for-profit organizations. The principal investigator must hold a PhD, MD, or other terminal degrees. Selected applicants will be invited to submit a full application by July 15. For complete program guidelines and application instructions, see the International Center for Responsible Gaming website. For more information, see the funder's website.

CAR Member New Publications

Tools to implement measurement-based care (MBC) in the treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD): toward a consensus

A. John Rush, Robert E. Gore-Langton, Gavin Bart, Katharine A. Bradley, Cynthia I. Campbell, James McKay, David W. Oslin, Andrew J. Saxon, T. John Winhusen, Li-Tzy Wu, Landhing M. Moran & Betty Tai

Addiction Science & Clinical Practice

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1186/s13722-024-00446-w>

ABSTRACT

Background: The prevalence and associated overdose death rates from opioid use disorder (OUD) have dramatically increased in the last decade. Despite more available treatments than 20 years ago, treatment access and high discontinuation rates are challenges, as are personalized medication dosing and making timely treatment changes when treatments fail. In other fields such as depression, brief measures to address these tasks combined with an action plan—so-called measurement-based care (MBC)—have been associated with better outcomes. This workgroup aimed to determine whether brief measures can be identified for using MBC for optimizing dosing or informing treatment decisions in OUD.

Methods: The National Institute on Drug Abuse Center for the Clinical Trials Network (NIDA CCTN) in 2022 convened a small workgroup to develop consensus about clinically usable measures to improve the quality of treatment delivery with MBC methods for OUD. Two clinical tasks were addressed: (1) to identify the optimal dose of medications for OUD for each patient and (2) to estimate the effectiveness of a treatment for a particular patient once implemented, in a more granular fashion than the binary categories of early or sustained remission or no remission found in The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, fifth edition (DSM-5).

Discussion: Five parameters were recommended to personalize medication dose adjustment: withdrawal symptoms, opioid use, magnitude (severity and duration) of the subjective effects when opioids are used, craving, and side effects. A brief rating of each OUD-specific parameter to adjust dosing and a global assessment or verbal question for side-effects was viewed as sufficient. Whether these ratings produce better outcomes (e.g., treatment engagement and retention) in practice deserves study.

There was consensus that core signs and symptoms of OUD based on some of the 5 DSM-5 domains (e.g., craving, withdrawal) should be the basis for assessing treatment outcome. No existing brief measure was found to meet all the consensus recommendations. Next steps would be to select, adapt or develop de novo items/brief scales to inform clinical decision-making about dose and treatment effectiveness. Psychometric testing, assessment of acceptability and whether the use of such scales produces better symptom control, quality of life (QoL), daily function or better prognosis as compared to treatment as usual deserves investigation.

What to Expect With Pregnant or Postpartum Prescribing of Extended-Release Buprenorphine (CAM2038)

Michelle R. Lofwall, Jessica L. Young, Zachary Hansen, Elisha M. Wachman, Christine Wilder, Constance Guille, Jasmin E. Charles, Lawrence Leeman, Jessica R. Gray, T. John Winhusen

Journal of Clinical Gynecology & Obstetrics

DOI: <https://doi.org/10.14740/jcgo919>

ABSTRACT

Weekly and monthly CAM2038 (Brixadi®) extended-release subcutaneous buprenorphine (XR bup) has been available in Europe and Australia for several years and was approved by the Food and Drug Administration in May 2023. Little is known about the clinical experience of patients and providers using this new medication during prenatal care. Two cases of pregnant persons with opioid use disorder receiving weekly XR bup in an ongoing randomized multi-site outpatient clinical trial are presented along with a brief review of the pharmacology and literature on XR bup formulations. The cases in pregnancy illustrate how treatment with the weekly formulation is initiated including how to make dose adjustments, which may be necessary given the longer half-life; it takes 1 month to achieve steady state. Injection site pain with medication administration was time limited and managed readily. Other injection site reactions experienced included subcutaneous erythema and induration that was delayed in onset and typically mild, resolving with minimal intervention. Delivery management and breastfeeding recommendations while on weekly XR bup were not different compared to sublingual buprenorphine (SL bup). Weekly XR bup is a new treatment for opioid use disorder that may be used in the obstetric population. Obstetric and addiction medicine clinicians should be aware of this new formulation as its use is expected to increase.

Keywords: Extended-release buprenorphine; Opioid use disorder; Postpartum; Pregnancy.

