

# PharmacyUpdate

New York State Department of Health

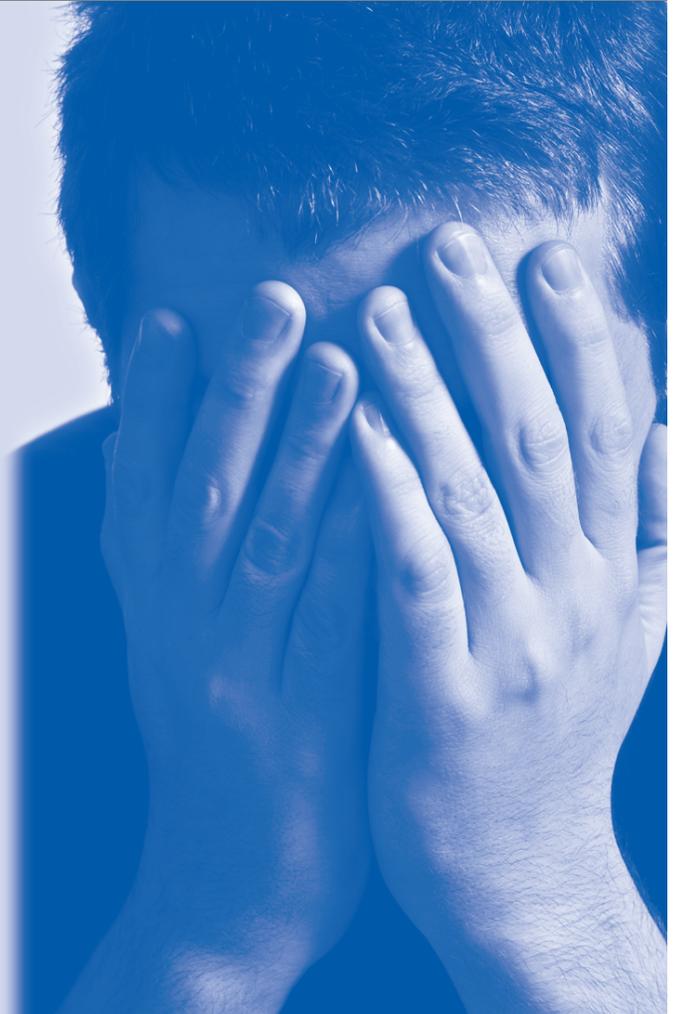
Winter 2010

Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement

## Buprenorphine

The Department of Health (DOH) has launched a campaign to educate the public and health care providers about the use of buprenorphine as a treatment option for addiction to prescription opioids. Buprenorphine has been shown to be an effective treatment option for opioid dependence and can be offered as an office-based treatment program. Through a grant funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, a radio campaign has been initiated to draw attention to prescription narcotic addiction and encourage addicted individuals to seek rehabilitative treatment. In addition, physicians and pharmacies statewide will shortly be provided with printed materials which highlight that addiction can be effectively treated with buprenorphine, which can be prescribed in the privacy of a physician's office and dispensed by a pharmacy. Physicians (licensed under State law to practice medicine) will also be encouraged to become qualified to treat their patients who are addicted to opioids or to advise such patients to obtain treatment from a qualified physician. Physicians who are qualified to treat opioid addiction, but are not prescribing buprenorphine, may also join a buprenorphine mentorship program. This campaign is being coordinated with the New York State Office of Alcoholism and Substance Abuse Services.

More information about buprenorphine is available at [www.nyhealth.gov/bupe](http://www.nyhealth.gov/bupe). Questions about the buprenorphine campaign can be directed to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement at 1-877-866-7957.



## Electronic Newsletter

If you would like to receive an electronic version of the quarterly Pharmacy Update, please provide your e-mail address to the Bureau of Narcotic Enforcement at [narcotic@health.state.ny.us](mailto:narcotic@health.state.ny.us).

## Dispensing Out-of-State Prescriptions

Pharmacists may dispense controlled and non-controlled substances prescribed on non-official prescriptions issued by out-of-state practitioners if the prescriptions

contain all information required by New York State law. When transmitting prescription information to the Department of Health from out-of-state prescriptions for controlled substances, pharmacists should enter the letter 'Z' eight times in the field for the prescription serial number.



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