SITE EXAMPLE

Nurse Initiated Buprenorphine Sample Order Set

We are sharing independent examples from selected hospital sites for the purpose of providing insight into how different sites treat substance use disorder. Please note CA Bridge is not responsible for the content of any site examples, and we do not formally recommend them as best-practices.

This sample order set is a tool for nurses to start patients on buprenorphine once withdrawal symptoms begin to present. This is to be used with patients who already have an opioid use disorder (OUD) diagnosis and have discussed treatment with prescriber.

BUPRENORPHINE FOR OPIOID WITHDRAWAL

Sample Order Set: To be placed by ordering provider

- Dx: Opioid Use Disorder with risk of withdrawal
- Nurse to initiate buprenorphine start per treatment algorithm.
- Contact provider prior to buprenorphine administration for complicating factors:
    - New or worsening altered mental status, delirium, or intoxication.
    - New or worsening severe acute pain or uncontrolled pain.
    - Recent methadone or long-acting opioid use not previously reported.
- Hold all other opioids for at least 8-12 hours.
- Confirm the patient is still interested in treatment for opioid use disorder with buprenorphine and has discussed treatment options with the treating provider.
- Assess for subjective and objective signs of opioid withdrawal every 2-4 hours.
- Buprenorphine 8 mg sublingual x1 prn withdrawal symptoms.
  Comments: Criteria to start medication (withdrawal) = Patient SAYS opioid withdrawal AND one sign: restlessness, sweating, rhinorrhea, dilated pupils, watery eyes, tachycardia, yawning, goosebumps, vomiting, diarrhea, tremor.

  Reassess withdrawal symptoms 1 hour after initial dose.
  If improved, administer a second dose of buprenorphine 8mg sublingual.
  If no improvement or signs of worsening symptoms, contact the provider prior to administering any additional buprenorphine.

- Buprenorphine 8 mg sublingual x1 prn improved withdrawal symptoms.
  Comments: Give following the initial dose of buprenorphine 8mg.
  ONLY administer a second dose if withdrawal symptoms have improved following the initial dose.
  If no improvement, contact the provider prior to administering any additional buprenorphine.

- Buprenorphine 4 mg sublingual every 1 hour PRN cravings. Contact provider if more frequent dosing is needed or for signs of worsening opioid withdrawal.
  Not to exceed 32 mg daily.

Optional:

- Buprenorphine 8 mg or 16 mg sublingual daily
  Comments: Pharmacy to schedule for the day following treatment start.

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