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**ATTC**

Unifying science, education  
and services to transform lives.

## Blending Team Members

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Visit the Blending Initiative website for more information and  
Blending products: <http://nida.nih.gov/blending>.

**NIDA** NATIONAL INSTITUTE  
ON DRUG ABUSE



blending initiative  
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## BUPRENORPHINE TREATMENT

A Training for Multidisciplinary  
Addiction Professionals

## THE BLENDING INITIATIVE

Accelerating the dissemination of findings that drug abuse and addiction research generates into community-based practice is a key priority for the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA). To this end, NIDA relies on an innovative partnership with the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (SAMHSA/CSAT) known as the Blending Initiative. This initiative is NIDA's most recent effort to accelerate the dissemination of research-based drug abuse and addiction treatment findings into community-based practice.

Based on recently tested NIDA research, Blending Teams design user-friendly tools, or products, and introduce them to treatment providers. These products facilitate the adoption of research-based interventions in communities at nearly the same time research results are published in peer-reviewed journals.

Blending Teams are comprised of NIDA researchers, clinical treatment providers, and trainers from SAMHSA's Addiction Technology Transfer Center (ATTC) Network. These experts work together to develop products based on research conducted within NIDA's Clinical Trials Network as well as within other research programs supported by NIDA. The ATTCs, which are funded by CSAT, provide specialized training and technical assistance to substance abuse treatment professionals to create a more effective treatment workforce.

**Sustainability** training  
**IMPLEMENTATION**  
**validity** research  
**FIDELITY** Feedback  
**effectiveness**

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Opioid addiction continues to be a significant public health problem across the country. In 2007, approximately 12.5 million Americans ages 12 and older used prescription pain medications for nonmedical purposes, according to the National Survey on Drug Use and Health administered by SAMHSA.

The Drug Abuse Treatment Act of 2000 and the approval of buprenorphine by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, in 2002, for the treatment of opioid addiction both allow for the expansion of traditional opioid treatment programs beyond the current structure to include treatment in office-based settings. With this expansion, more patients may be willing to access treatment, and the stigma associated with addiction may be reduced by broadening the definition and location of treatment.

This Blending product was designed by the Buprenorphine Treatment Blending Team to enhance awareness among multidisciplinary addiction professionals about buprenorphine treatment. It is designed to provide a broad overview of the medication, its effects, and the role of nonphysician practitioners in providing and supporting the treatment of individuals receiving this medication.

## THE TRAINING PACKAGE

A 4- to 6-hour training program provides instruction on the use of buprenorphine for opioid dependent patients. It

- discusses legislation that permits office-based buprenorphine treatment;
- examines the science of addiction;
- explores the mechanism of buprenorphine;
- provides an overview of patient selection issues; and
- reviews various patient, counseling, and therapeutic issues.

