

[Patient Assessment Checklist](#) [1]

Description: Before starting office-based buprenorphine treatment, the following Patient Assessment Questions should be answered for each patient. Topics addressed in these questions include: Diagnosis, Medications, Drugs/Alcohol, Psychiatric and Medical Comorbidities, Psychosocial Issues, Treatment, Patient Management, and Resources. If multiple issues are identified, consider whether they can be managed in your practice or if the patient requires a higher level of care, i.e. an Opioid Treatment Program or higher level.

Diagnosis

Does the patient have a diagnosis of opioid use disorder?

- Approximately how long has the patient been dependent?
- On which opioid(s) is the patient dependent, and how is the drug ingested?
- How much of the drug does the patient use daily/weekly?

Other Medications

Is the patient currently abstaining from medications that may interact with buprenorphine?

- Is the patient taking benzodiazepines? If so, what is your plan for tapering use?
- Is the patient taking other prescription drugs that may interact with buprenorphine?

Other Drugs/Alcohol

Does the patient use other illicit drugs?

- Is he/she dependent on other drugs and/or alcohol? If so, what others?
- Does the patient drink alcohol? If so, approximately how many drinks a day/week?

Psychiatric Comorbidities

Is the patient psychiatrically stable?

- Does the patient have any other psychiatric diagnoses besides opioid use disorder? If so, are the other conditions being treated by you? By another professional?
- What is the patient's history of psychological problems, including past substance abuse?
- Does the patient exhibit suicidal/homicidal ideation?

Medical Comorbidities

What chronic or acute medical problem does the patient have that might complicate treatment?

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- Are these conditions related to drug use (hepatitis B, hepatitis C, HIV)?
- Do you expect the condition to complicate treatment?
- Is the patient pregnant?

Psychosocial Issues

Are the psychosocial circumstances of the patient stable and supportive?

- Does the patient have healthy family relationships?
- Does the patient have supportive friendships?
- Is the patient employed?
- Does the patient have a stable living environment?
- Are others in the patient's life substance abusers?

Anticipated Success of Treatment

Is the patient interested in office-based buprenorphine treatment?

- Is this the patient's first attempt at buprenorphine treatment?
- What is the patient's treatment history (success and failures, type of treatment)?
- Is the patient at risk for a difficult induction to buprenorphine?
- Is there a high risk for severe withdrawal?
- Is there a high risk of relapse?

Patient Management

Is the patient expected to be compliant with treatment?

- Does the patient keep appointments and arrive promptly? Can you ascertain the patient's patterns with other treatment providers?
- What stage of change is the patient in (contemplation or higher)?
- Is the patient expected to follow safety procedures?

Resources

Can the office, either on site or through referral, provide the needed resources for the patient?

- Do you employ or can you refer the patient to a drug abuse (psychosocial) counselor?
- Are you familiar with other, good psychosocial services in your area?

Links:

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[1] <http://local.buppractice.com/patientassessmentchecklist>