

## Considerations for Administration of Buprenorphine and Methadone

Once shared-decision making realizes a patient-informed decision to initiate medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorder (OUD), they should be educated on technical aspects of taking it. Facilities are also responsible for ensuring that nursing and other providers administering MAT directly should be well informed on these aspects as well.

### Important Considerations for Administration of Buprenorphine

- Ensure patient is an appropriate candidate for Buprenorphine (Appendix B: Considerations for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy)
- When dosing of Buprenorphine is indicated (e.g. during inpatient or outpatient induction, at home), patients should be directed to do the following:
  - Remove everything from their mouth
  - Sit or stand (do NOT lie down)
  - Sip and swallow water to wet their mouth and tongue
  - Place tablets under the tongue (if more than two, can divide them up)
    - Do NOT swallow or suck on the tablets
    - Do NOT talk
    - Recognize that it may not taste good
  - Once tablets are dissolved complete, they can swallow
  - If in the inpatient setting, consumption of the full dose should be observed
- Can consider dividing doses as needed after discussion with their prescribing provider
- Will likely need up titration as pregnancy advances

### Important Considerations for Administration of Methadone

- Ensure patient is an appropriate candidate for Methadone (Appendix B: Considerations for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy)
- Used shared-decision making to select what formulation of Methadone of those available to give patients
- When dosing of Methadone is indicated (e.g. during inpatient induction, at Opioid Treatment Program), patients should be directed to do the following:
  - Remove everything from their mouth
  - Sit or stand (do NOT lie down)
  - Dispersible tablet formulations, also known as diskets, MUST be diluted in ~4 oz of water or acidic beverage (e.g. orange juice) prior to administration; other formulations do not have to be diluted but doing so may be ideal for concentrated liquid concentrates
  - If in the inpatient setting, consumption of the full dose should be observed
- Can consider dividing doses as needed after discussion with their prescribing provider
- Will likely need up titration as pregnancy advances