

The other 27 days..

Introducing Depot Buprenorphine into
a NSW Correctional Setting

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Health
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The Patients-Substance Use

(NPHS, 2015)

- Ever injected drugs: 43%
- Ever injected in prison: 17%
- Over 60% report being under the influence of drugs or alcohol at the time of offending for current incarceration
- 63% received diagnosis mental illness at some stage life

Challenges SL BPN in Custody

- Administration of SL BPN time-intensive in custody
- High levels diversion and interpersonal violence
- High levels illicit SL BPN smuggled into correctional setting
- High levels Injecting Related Injury and Disease (IRID)
- To date methadone has remained gold standard treatment in NSW Correctional Setting



Acknowledgment: Reproduced with the kind permission of Corrective Services NSW

The UNLOC-T study

Understanding NSW Long-acting Opioids in
Custody-Treatment

Non-randomised open label case comparison study

Primary objectives

1. To identify any unexpected *safety* and *tolerability* considerations of depot buprenorphine
2. To assess *diversion* and other *non-medical use* of depot buprenorphine
3. To compare the time and cost associated with administration of depot buprenorphine to methadone



Screening, baseline and follow-up procedures and assessments

Procedure	Screening	Baseline	Week 4	Week 16
Screening procedures and assessments				
Informed consent	X			
Inclusion/exclusion criteria	X	X		
Demographics	X			
Medical and medication history	X			
Substance use and treatment history	X			
Physical health examination	X		X	X
Electrocardiogram (ECG)	(X) ¹			
Safety labs	(X) ²			
Pregnancy test (female participants)	X			



Screening, baseline and follow-up procedures and assessments

Procedure	Screening	Baseline	Week 4	Week 16
Research visits				
Baseline characteristics		X		
Recent self-report of illicit opioid/other drugs (ATOP)		X	X	X
Short Form 12 (SF-12)		X	X	X
Kessler Psychological Distress Scale (K10)		X	X	X
Treatment Satisfaction Questionnaire (TSQM)		X	X	X
Self-reported diversion/ non-medical use of study meds		X	X	X
Self-reported overdoses		X	X	X
Subjective Opiate Withdrawal Scale (SOWS)		X	X	X
Craving VAS		X	X	X
Satisfaction VAS			X	X
Treatment Burden Questionnaire (TBQ)			X	X

Buvidal weekly & monthly



- Camurus AB
- Fluid crystal forms gel
 - Small volume (0.16 – 0.64 ml) subcut injection
- Duration: 1 week and 4 week
- Room temperature storage
- Flexible dose preparations

Dose of daily sublingual buprenorphine	Dose of Buvidal Weekly	Dose of Buvidal Monthly
2-6 mg	8 mg	
8-10 mg	16 mg	64 mg
12-16 mg	24 mg	96 mg
18-24 mg	32 mg	128 mg

Buvidal safety syringe – before and after

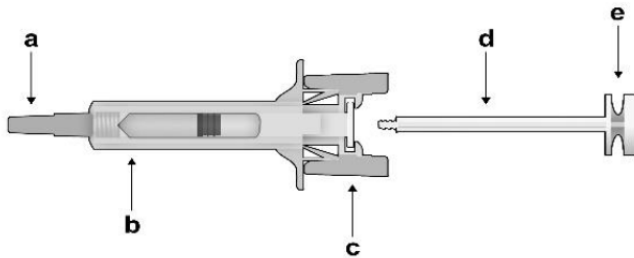
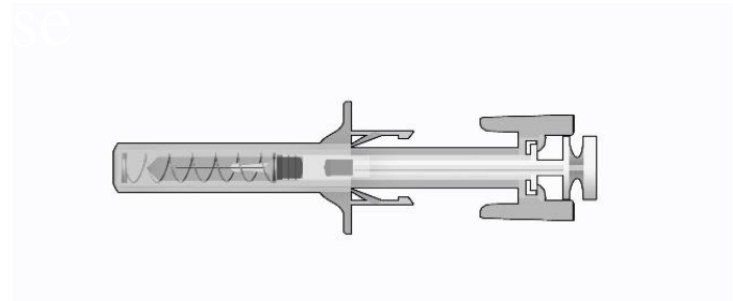


Figure 1 : Safety Syringe; Before use:

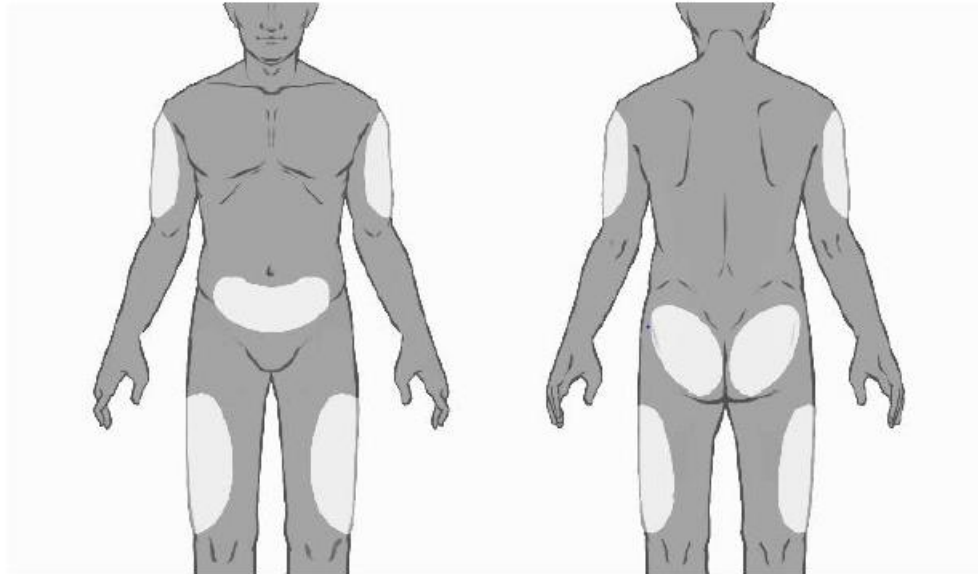
- a) Needle shield, b) Syringe Guard Body,
- c) Syringe Guard Wings, d) Plunger,
- e) Plunger Head



Safety Syringe: After use

(With needle protection mechanism activated)

Buvidal injection sites





CSNSW -Commissioner,
General Managers and Clinic
Officers very supportive



Management
are aware of the
trial, know that
we have more
stability, giving
us more
responsibility

Not even on
same spectrum
as methadone

We wake up and
don't have to think
about how to
score

When I get home I
can do my job as a
builder because I
don't need to go to
clinic everyday

Don't have
to worry
about
standover



Case study 1

- 41 year old male/young family
- Numerous years in custody/drug related charges
- Buprenorphine injecting drug use in custody
- Pays for it with buy-ups and money put in jail account
- Monthly injection of 96mgs no drug use whilst on depot
- Community clinic for injection continuation after release.

Case study 2

- 28year old male
- Last 10 years in custody/drug related charges
- Using buprenorphine/methadone in custody/diverted
- Pays for the drugs with buy-ups
- Buprenorphine depot up to 160mgs/did well
- Released to community clinic for injection continuation

Case study 3

- 35 year old male
- Past 8 years in custody/drug related charges
- Injecting suboxone/buprenorphine and heroin
- Took up methamphetamine use whilst on depot and non compliant quetiapine
- Developed panic attacks/tosh anxiety
- Patient attributed worsening mental health to depot buprenorphine
- Up to 3rd monthly depot of 96mgs/did not want to continue/back to using

Impact on Practice – my experience

- Great learning curve-trial involvement
- Been exciting to see patient journey
- Satisfying to see most of patients arrive at abstinence with this treatment



I feel like Santa Claus

Wonderful to see patients walking in with smiles on their faces



I have best job in the world seeing these fellas do so well

Game changer

www.justicehealth.nsw.gov.au



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