

Review of Individuals Commenced on Prolonged Release Injectable Buprenorphine (Buvidal®) in West Lothian Community Addictions Service

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Introduction

The prolonged release injectable depot formulation of buprenorphine (Buvidal®) was offered as Opiate Substitution Therapy (OST) from March 2020. This is an alternative to existing treatment options already offered: oral buprenorphine (sublingual and lyophilisate) and methadone mixture 1mg/1ml. There were no eligibility criteria for Buvidal® and it was offered to all patients commencing OST.

Aim

To add to the current knowledge regarding Buvidal®, through providing data on retention and stability in relation to those prescribed Buvidal® by West Lothian Community Addictions Service.

Method

- Retrospective review of prolonged release injectable buprenorphine (Buvidal®) commenced between March 2020 and June 2021.
- Data collected: length of retention in treatment, whether detoxification off Buvidal® was planned and the number who re-presented requiring treatment after discontinuing Buvidal®.
- Oral drug screen toxicology monitored stability and detected non prescribed drugs.

Results

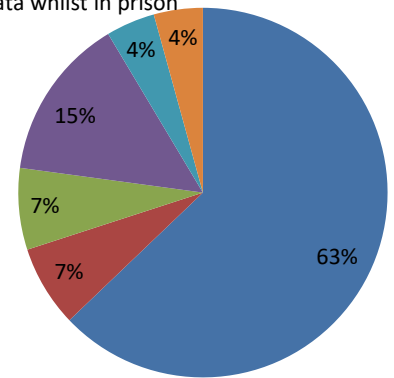
- Of the 63% who had unplanned discontinuation, 62% represented to WLC Addictions Service to recommence OST prior to June 2023. The mean number of days to representation was 291 (or median of 204).

Comparison of Retention in Service Type of OST

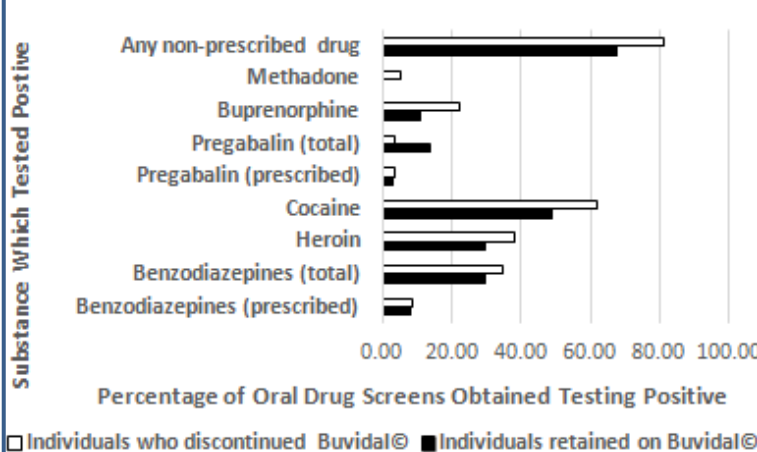
Length of Retention	Percentage of people retained in service		
	Buvidal® (WLC Addictions Service)	Oral methadone (Cochrane review)	Oral buprenorphine (Cochrane review)
>6 months	88	67	56.8
>12 months	72	60.7	45.4
>2 years	50	49.8	No data

Reasons for Stopping Buvidal ®

- Unplanned discontinuation
- Discontinuation (remained in service)
- Switched to alternative OST
- Detoxification from opioids
- Residential rehabilitation
- No data whilst in prison



Toxicology Results: Percentage of Oral Drug Screens Positive for each Substance



Discussion

- Buvidal® has a high retention rate, similar to that of methadone treatment.
- Given the proportion of unplanned detoxifications, this reinforces the importance of the psychosocial aspects of recovery.
- Those on Buvidal® may still be at increased risk of death due to ongoing polysubstance misuse.