

Problems Initiating Buprenorphine Treatment Among Patients Using Fentanyl

February 25, 2026 | 11:00am – 12:30pm (PT)

About the webinar

In this webinar, **Erin Winstanley, PhD**, will describe a NIDA Clinical Trials Network study, CTN-0135, examining clinician-reported challenges with initiating buprenorphine for people using fentanyl, including precipitated or prolonged withdrawal, patient reports that buprenorphine was ineffective, and patient preference for methadone. In response to these challenges, most clinicians surveyed reported modifying their standard induction protocols or patient counseling approaches. Clinicians treating larger patient volumes, seeing a high proportion of patients using fentanyl, or initiating treatment in non-inpatient settings were more likely to report difficulties starting patients on buprenorphine. Dr. Winstanley will present the study results and discuss their implications.



Learning objectives

1. Specify at least two (2) challenges to initiating buprenorphine treatment among patients using fentanyl
2. Describe at least three (3) key methods and primary findings of a national survey of clinician-reported problems initiating buprenorphine treatment among patients using fentanyl
3. Distinguish at least three (3) strategies clinicians are using to improve engagement in buprenorphine treatment

1.5 CME or CE credits available. See credit types below.

Sponsored by the Northwest and Pacific Southwest Addiction Technology Transfer Centers (ATTCs) and the Western States Node of the NIDA Clinical Trials Network.

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