

Appropriateness for Office-Based Treatment: 10 Factors

The following factors can help to determine if a patient is appropriate for office-based buprenorphine treatment.

- ❑ Does the patient have a diagnosis of opioid dependence?
- ❑ Is the patient interested in office-based buprenorphine treatment?
- ❑ Is the patient aware of the other treatment options?
- ❑ Does the patient understand the risks and benefits of buprenorphine treatment and that it will address some aspects of the substance use (for example, withdrawal suppression and blockade) but not all aspects (such as triggers and cravings that may be elicited by events and circumstances in the environment)?
- ❑ Is the patient expected to be reasonably compliant? Are there indicators from his or her life that suggest he or she is reliable, such as steady employment, following through in taking medications for other medical conditions, or showing up on time for office appointments?
- ❑ Is the patient expected to follow safety procedures?
- ❑ Is the patient psychiatrically stable?
- ❑ Are the psychosocial circumstances of the patient stable and supportive?
- ❑ Are there resources available in the office to provide appropriate treatment? Are there other physicians in the group practice? Are there treatment programs available that will accept referral for more intensive levels of service?
- ❑ Is the patient taking other medications that may interact with buprenorphine, such as naltrexone, benzodiazepines, or other sedative-hypnotics?