



***State of Delaware
Department of Health and Social Services
Division of Public Health
Office of Emergency Medical Services***

State of Delaware Buprenorphine Pilot

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Robert A. Rosenbaum". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Robert A. Rosenbaum, MD., FACEP, FAEMS
State EMS Medical Director
Office of Emergency Medical Services



TO: County Paramedic Agency Chiefs

FROM: Dr. Robert Rosenbaum, MD FAEMS, State EMS Medical Director

CC: County EMS Medical Directors, Associate EMS Medical Directors,
EMSPS Chief Diane Hainsworth, OEMS Deputy Director Britany Huss

Date: June 7, 2023

RE: Updated BUPRENORPHINE PILOT PROTOCOL

To all:

The Buprenorphine Pilot Protocol has been running well in the six weeks since the treatment option was initiated. We have had several cases, however, where patients interested in beginning buprenorphine did not receive on-line Medical Control to approve the treatment. These denials occurred early with some misunderstanding of protocol but also more recently including an event this week. The reasoning behind these decisions was not in keeping with the intention of the pilot protocol.

At this point, we should not be experiencing a barrier to buprenorphine initiation because of a lack of physician approval. I am confident in the ability of paramedics to complete a COWS score and other aspects of the assessment and in the work that they are doing to enroll patients. Based on discussions with the EMS Medical Directors today, the provision requiring calling Medical Control prior to giving the first dose of buprenorphine will be removed from the Buprenorphine Pilot Protocol.

The protocol shall be updated as follows:

- Replace the line “If medical control authorizes Buprenorphine bundle” with the statement “If patient agrees and meets indications for buprenorphine”:
 - Administer 16 mg buprenorphine SL
 - Administer 4-8 mg ondansetron (Zofran) ODT or IV as needed for nausea
- ADD to the line “If after 10 minutes the symptoms worsen or persist”... “contact medical control to discuss the patient and to confirm administration of an additional 8 mg of buprenorphine SL”

These modifications should simplify the entry process and still add on-line medical control in more complicated cases. You may inform paramedics in your agency of these updates and begin to administer the first dose of buprenorphine for consenting, eligible patients as a standing order effective immediately.

Robert A. Rosenbaum MD

Robert A. Rosenbaum, MD FAEMS
State EMS Medical Director