



# **P-SAM BLOTTER**

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## **(NEW INFORMATION BRIEFS PROVIDE EMPLOYERS VALUABLE ADVICE ON COST EFFECTIVE WAYS OF HELPING EMPLOYEES NEEDING SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT)**

Reprinted with permission from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Employers now have free access to a series of 14 two-page briefs outlining the benefits (including financial) of helping their employees receive treatment for substance abuse. The 14 briefs were developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA).

"Surveys have shown that 76 percent of people with drug or alcohol problems are employed and that their problems can have an enormous impact on productivity," said SAMHSA Acting Administrator Eric Broderick. "Our goal is to educate employers about cost effective measures that can be taken to identify employees with substance abuse problems and help return them to full health and productivity."

The briefs discuss a variety of workplace related topics including:

- The full effects of substance abuse in the workplace – including to morale, productivity, safety and finances.
- Why it is worthwhile to promote treatment for employees with substance abuse problems
- How Employee Assistance Programs can be cost effective
- Substance abuse's effects among younger and older employees
- How substance abuse screening works, and its benefits to everyone in the workplace
- Cost effective ways that employers can support workers recovering from substance abuse

"These timely materials show that substance abuse treatment benefits under employee health plans can actually save them money while boosting employees' health and productivity" said SAMHSA's Center for Substance Abuse Treatment Director Dr. H. Westley Clark. "This can help employers make informed decisions while they are considering changes related to the Wellstone/Domenici Mental Health and Addictions Parity Act of 2008."

The briefs are based on findings from SAMHSA's Drug-Free Workplace Program as well as research from the National Institute on Drug Abuse, the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism, the National Business Group on Health, the Partnership for a Drug-Free America and other organizations.

The briefs are free and available in print and online. To order printed copies, call 1-877-SAMHSA-7 (1-877-726-4727). To download the online version of briefs, go to <http://csat.samhsa.gov/IDBSE/index.aspx> .

## **(MAJOR REPORT FINDS SCREENING AND EARLY INTERVENTION PROGRAM USED IN DIVERSE HEALTH CARE SETTINGS DRAMATICALLY REDUCES ILLICIT DRUG USE AMONG PATIENTS)**

Reprinted with permission from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)

Report found a 67.7 percent reduction in illicit drug use over a six month period among people receiving these services

The Screening, Brief Intervention, and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) program can reduce illicit drug use among patients seeking medical care in a wide variety of health care settings such as hospitals, physician offices, and community clinics, a study finds.

SBIRT uses a variety of techniques to screen patients seeking medical health for signs of substance abuse. If a patient screens positive for a substance abuse problem immediate steps are taken to help the patient effectively deal with the problem before the patient's health and well-being deteriorate.

The report in the journal *Drug and Alcohol Dependence* found that rates of illicit drug use dropped by 67.7 percent six months after patients using illicit drugs had received help through a SBIRT program. In addition, heavy alcohol use dropped by 38.6 percent. Illicit drug users receiving brief treatment or referral to specialty treatment also reported other quality of life improvements:

- 29.3 percent reported feeling generally healthier
- 31.2 percent reported experiencing fewer emotional problems
- 15.4 percent reported improved employment status
- 64.3 percent reported fewer arrests
- 45.8 percent who were homeless reported no longer being homeless

Currently, most screening and brief intervention programs are directed primarily toward screening and assisting patients to reduce heavy alcohol use -- a use for which SBIRT has long been shown to be highly effective.

To help expand SBIRT use and determine its efficacy for addressing illicit drug use and alcohol use, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) began awarding grants to states and tribal organizations beginning in 2003. The report announced today is based on an analysis of the data provided by six of the grant recipients.

SBIRT can be used in a wide variety of health care settings including primary care centers, hospital emergency rooms, trauma centers, and other community settings, and provides options for addressing the particular substance abuse problems of patients.

For many patients with less severe problems a health care provider may briefly intervene by discussing the problem with the patient and offering steps to address it. Brief treatments for the problem may also be offered within the healthcare setting or a community setting. In more severe cases, a health care provider usually refers the patient to a more specialized setting for assessment, diagnosis, and appropriate treatment.

"Over 20 million Americans with substance abuse problems don't get the treatment they need – largely because they don't seek it," said SAMHSA Acting Administrator Eric Broderick, D.D.S., M.P.H. "These findings show that SBIRT can play an important role

in helping people recognize they may have a substance abuse problem and that help is available.”

The article was authored by Dr. Bertha Madras, former deputy director for Demand Reduction at the Office of National Drug Control Policy (ONDCP) and currently at Harvard Medical School; Dr. Wilson Compton of the National Institute on Drug Abuse (NIDA), National Institutes of Health; and Dr. H. Westley Clark, Ms. Deepa Avula, Mr. Tom Stegbauer, and Dr. Jack Stein of SAMHSA.

The report was based on data drawn from a network of health care facilities treating a wide variety of patient populations. At least 459,599 patients seeking medical treatment at these facilities were screened for alcohol and illicit drug use during the course of the study, with 104,505 (27 percent) screening positive for heavy alcohol or illicit drug use.

Programs followed up with a random sample of patients screening positive for heavy alcohol or illicit drug use to determine whether their alcohol and illicit drug use levels had changed six months after they had been screened in the SBIRT program.

“We see great promise in this approach to identifying those most in need of intervention and treatment for substance abuse problems,” said NIDA Director Nora D. Volkow. “We are committed to learning more. NIDA has awarded over \$4.2 million in new grants this year alone for more SBIRT clinical trials in real-life settings.”

“Promoting services like SBIRT to all parts of the nation is a crucial part of SAMHSA’s mission to reach everyone struggling with substance abuse issues,” said Dr. H. Westley Clark, director of SAMHSA’s Center for Substance Abuse Treatment.

A copy of the complete report is available at  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1016/j.drugalcdep.2008.08.003>

## **(ONLINE EDUCATION)**

### **American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Review ASAM Course Presentations**

On October 26-28, 2008, ASAM held their Review Course in Addiction Medicine. All presentations from the conference are now available [[Review Course Presentations](#)]. [[Audio Recordings](#)] of the Review Course are available for purchase through [[DC providers Online](#)]. The 2008 Syllabus and Sample Questions may be purchased by calling 1-800-844-8948.

## **American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)**

[Online Buprenorphine Training](#)

**Clinical Tools, Inc.**

CME: 8.0 Credit Hours in Category 1 of AMA

Contact: 1-888-362-6784

 [E-Mail](#)  [RegistrationForm](#)  [more info](#)

## **American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM)**

Tobacco Treatment Training

American Society of Addiction Medicine

Clinical Tools, Inc.

CME: 7.0 Credit Hours in Category 1 of AMA

Contact: 888-362-6784

 [more info](#)

This program is an internet-based training program to educate healthcare providers about tobacco prevention and cessation. The Tobacco Treatment Training Program is available online at [www.TobaccoTreatmentTraining.com](http://www.TobaccoTreatmentTraining.com).

The training program was developed with funding from the National Cancer Institute and the National Heart, Lung, and Blood Institute.

The ASAM-Clinical Tools Tobacco Treatment Training Program prepares physicians and other health professionals to provide clinical tobacco interventions for prevention and cessation. The Tobacco Treatment Training Program is available on the Internet 24 hours a day, 7 days a week and can be completed at the convenience of the learner. No special software is needed with this browser-based program. Health professionals can complete the program all at once or over multiple sessions. The cost to complete the training program is \$150, and learners can print out a continuing education certificate when they complete their training.

## **American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP)**

*Buprenorphine Treatment of Opioid Addiction: A Counselor's Guide*

Web-based buprenorphine training course provides information on buprenorphine use for the treatment of opioid addiction. The course satisfies the eight hour training requirement defined in the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000, which is needed for physicians to qualify for prescribing and dispensing buprenorphine in their offices for the treatment of opioid dependence. Users can take individual modules or the entire 13-module, 9-hour course. To register or for additional information, click [here](#).

**(UPCOMING EVENTS)**

## **Buprenorphine Training Programs**

Click [here](#) to view the comprehensive Buprenorphine Training Program Calendar.

## **American Association for the Treatment of Opioid Dependence 2009 National Conference**

April 25-29, 2009

Hilton New York Hotel, New York City

[Conference at a Glance](#) [PDF]

[Conference Registration Information](#) [PDF]

[2009 Registration Form \(Printing/Faxing\)](#) [PDF]

[2009 Call for Presentation – Early Registration Brochure](#) [PDF]

[Continuing Edits](#)

[Hotel Information/Reservations/Travel Information](#)

[Online Reservations](#)

[Online Conference Registration](#)

## **ASAM 40th Annual Medical-Scientific Conference**

The Conference will present the most up-to-date information in the addictions field.

April 30-May 3, 2009

Location: Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, LA

CME: 20 Credit Hours in Category 1 of AMA

Contact: <http://www.asam.org>

Click here to [register online](#)

Click here for [program and registration brochure](#)

## **Pain & Addiction: Common Threads X, Lessons From Katrina**

April 30, 2009

Location: Hilton New Orleans Riverside Hotel, New Orleans, LA

CME: 8 Credit Hours in Category 1 of AMA

Contact: [dwilliams@asam.org](mailto:dwilliams@asam.org)

Click here for [agenda](#)

## **The Ruth Fox Course for Physicians**

April 30, 2009

Location: Hilton New Orleans Riverside, New Orleans, LA

CME: 8 Credit Hours in Category 1 of AMA

Click here for [Agenda](#)

## **American Psychiatric Association 162<sup>nd</sup> Annual Meeting**

May 16-21, 2009

Location: San Francisco, CA

Click here to view the [Advanced Registration Information Packet](#)

**2009 National Association of Addiction Treatment Providers (NAATP)  
Annual Addiction Treatment Leadership Conference**

May 17-20, 2009

Location: PGA National Resort, West Palm Beach, FL

Click here to [register](#) online

**The College on Problems of Drug Dependence (CPDD) Annual  
Meeting**

June 20-25, 2009

Reno, Nevada

Contact: <http://www.cpdd.vcu.edu/Pages/Meetings/FutureMeet.html>

**50th Annual Institute on Addiction Studies**

July 12th - 16th, 2009

Barrie, Ontario, Canada

Contact: <http://www.addictionstudies.ca/>

**International Society of Addiction Medicine Annual Meeting**

September 26-30, 2009

Calgary, Canada

Contact: <http://www.isamweb.org/>

**State of the Art in Addiction Medicine**

October 22-24, 2009

Location: Hyatt Regency Washington, Washington, DC

Contact: [lwatson@asam.org](mailto:lwatson@asam.org)

**Reform 2009: The International Drug Policy Reform Conference**

November 11-14, 2009

Albuquerque, New Mexico

Contact: <http://www.drugpolicy.org>

**American Academy of Addiction Psychiatry (AAAP) 20th Annual Meeting & Symposium**

December 3-6, 2009

Los Angeles, California

Contact: 401-524-3076 or <http://www.aaap.org/>

**ASAM 41st Annual Medical-Scientific Conference**

April 15-18, 2010

Location: San Francisco Marriot, San Francisco, CA

Contact: <http://www.asam.org>

**ASAM 42nd Annual Medical-Scientific Conference**

April 14-17, 2011

Location: Hilton Washington, Washington, DC

Contact: <http://www.asam.org>

**(CONTACT US!)**

We welcome feedback and content for the Blotter! The contact information for P-SAM is:

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