



COUNTY OF MONTEREY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

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Date: November 9, 2022

To: Monterey County EMS Service Providers & System Participants

From: Monterey County EMS Agency

Subject: Paramedic Administration of Buprenorphine – A Tri-County Effort to Reduce Death from Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

Monterey County has partnered with the Santa Cruz and San Benito County EMS Agencies in a buprenorphine administration project. We are planning to join Contra Costa, San Francisco, and other local EMS agencies in authorizing paramedics to initiate Medication for Addiction Treatment (MAT) and to link patients with a California Bridge hospital or clinic-based treatment program or emergency department with appropriate training and resources to assist patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).

We strongly feel that initiating buprenorphine treatment in the prehospital setting to individuals experiencing opioid withdrawal or to those who experience a nonfatal opioid overdose provides an opportunity to reduce both all-cause and overdose mortality among individuals with OUD.

To support this effort, the Monterey County EMS Agency has applied to the State for Local Optional Scope of Practice (LOSOP) approval allowing paramedics to administer buprenorphine treatment to patients meeting specific criteria.

Our tentative timeline for implementation is April 1, 2023.

Our Tri-County long-term outcome goal for the first year following implementation is to administer buprenorphine to at least 80% of EMS patients in opioid withdrawal who meet criteria under applicable local protocol.

At this time, we are limiting this optional scope of practice item to AMR only but anticipate extending this project to all ALS 9-1-1 transport providers. This will allow us to study cost, utilization, and overall effectiveness before considering whether to expand the LOSOP authorization to all ALS providers.

Information regarding California's MAT Project and California Bridge Program can be found at <https://californiamat.org/matproject/california-bridge-program/>.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact the EMS Agency at EMSAdmin@co.monterey.ca.us or (831)755-5013.