

DRUG SUBOXONE: “A DOUBLE EDGED SWORD “ PART TWO “SUBOXONE’S OCCURANCE AS A STREET DRUG AND CONTRABAND IN OUR PRISONS

Last month we discussed aspects both positive and negative from the use of suboxone the powerful narcotic and potentially addictive pain killer used for opiod addiction. We discussed suboxone’s success in enabling otherwise heroin addicted individuals to lead to more independent successful lives. We also discussed the darker side of suboxone’s legacy. We reviewed data concerning lack of medical expertise when administering suboxone, as well as financially lucrative benefits to some unscrupulous physicians and pharמעeuticals that are profiting. This month we will examine Suboxone as a “street drug”, and the correctional facilities nemesis across the country.

In reference to Charlie Cichon, executive director of the National Association of Drug Diversion Investigators, a nonprofit that educates and provides drug abuse and diversion. Re: Pat Arson, “ Suboxone The New Drug Epidemic? “ :

Abusers utilize subaxone as a drug that allows them to maintain a mellow stage until they get the next drug.

Suboxone as a street drug is bartered or exchanged for money, heroin, or other illegal drugs. According to one estimate Cichon states, about half of the buprenorphine obtained through legitimate prescriptions is either diverted or used illicitly. “ We joke there is more Suboxone on the streets than in the pharmacies.” Cichon expresses concern that with so many generic versions on the market this street availability will explode.

The Alliance is well aware of the street usage in one of our urban centers, ironically in close proximity to a Suboxone clinic. Suboxone among a variety of street drugs, were quite available 2 years ago in one district of Cranston. The estimated “ street” value of 1 suboxone tablet was \$20-\$30 dollars. Cranston Drug Enforcement Unit in conjunction with the aide of the Alliance were able to make arrests happen within a group of individuals ranging from ages 19-50 . What was most disturbing and is not relatively uncommon was that the drugs were finding their way into the hands of minors.

Suboxone is also seen increasingly used in the college scene among young adults as a recreational drug to get high, not realizing how strong it is and potentially for overdose. www.muckgers.com 2014 “ meet suboxone the streets hot new drug”

Suboxone in disguise and used in a contraband fashion is common to Drug Makers, Law Enforcement, and Correctional Facilities.

In an interview with Rhode Island’s President of the Brotherhood of Corrections, Richard Ferruchio, confirmed an increase in contraband and the prevalence of suboxone in it’s facilities occurring.

Many facilities throughout the country have seen Suboxone smuggled in as crushed tablets in the seam lining of clothes, adhesive strips attached to envelopes seals, and crushed tablets painted into gift cards , coloring books, and pictures that can easily be “ licked clean”.

Prisons such as Vermont Dept. of Corrections are taking measures to improve procedures to prevent the drug entering the prisons illegally. Some of these changes include random searches of temp workers, and visitors entering secure portions of facilities. Prisoners who test positive for drugs while in prison should lose their rights to “in person visits”. This sample of precautions are outlined by Dave Bellini chairman of the VSEA’s Corrections.

The Associated Press has reported that states from Maine to New Mexico have seen a jump in discoveries of illegal doses of suboxone at prisons. These facts are cited in an article by John Caniglia who details issues of suboxone entering Ohio's prisons in, " Suboxone an addiction treatment drug seeps into Ohio prisons as contraband".

The Alliance researched a plethora of data regarding the influx and predominance of suboxone becoming a rapidly most popular contraband in correctional facilities. It's all available with the click of a mouse and with very little effort.

In summary, the Alliance opinion is that, it is obvious this drug offers amazing benefits as well as contrastingly disturbing fatal incidences. This drug and it's use is truly a "work in progress" .

SOURCE INFORMATION:

- 1) Panel seeks more control of Suboxone

[Impact.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/09/suboxone_an_addiction_treatment.html](http://impact.cleveland.com/metro/index.ssf/2013/09/suboxone_an_addiction_treatment.html)

- 2) Suboxone, an addiction treatment drug, seeps into Ohio prisons as contraband

<http://www.timesargus.com/apps/pbcs.dll/article? AID=/20140212/N...>

- 3) Meet Suboxone the street's hot new drug