

January 5, 2007

Dear Doctor,

As a physician certified to prescribe SUBOXONE® (buprenorphine HCl/naloxone HCl dihydrate CIII sublingual tablet), we want to make sure you are aware of the impact of recent legislative changes on your ability to care for the opioid-dependent population. On December 8, 2006, Congress passed H.R. 6344 to reauthorize the Office of National Drug Control Policy. **This bill contains language that allows you to treat up to 100 patients—a significant increase from the previous limit of 30 patients. To treat additional patients, you must send a second notification of intent to the government (see enclosed *Key Point Summary* for instructions).**

This action by Congress recognizes that there is a large population of opioid-dependent patients who cannot get the necessary treatment for this serious, chronic medical condition. Senators Carl Levin and Orrin Hatch sponsored this legislation in response to the many physicians who reported having to turn patients away and believed that the original limit conflicted with a doctor's professional and moral obligation to provide treatment to those in need. Senator Hatch expressed his concern by saying: "...*why should we bind a healer's hands from helping as many as he or she could?*"

#### **Important Points**

- **The patient limit has increased to 100 only for physicians who submitted their first notification of intent at least one year ago**
- **The patient limit is still 30 for physicians who submitted their first notification of intent less than one year ago**
- **There are patients in your area currently looking for treatment**
- **Psychosocial counseling is crucial for best outcomes**
- **Reckitt Benckiser has resources available to help**

While this new law is great news for opioid-dependent patients, it is important to remember that pharmacotherapy by itself is not enough and that psychosocial counseling is an integral part of substance abuse treatment. Please ensure that all patients you are treating with SUBOXONE also have access to counseling. This legislation offers the hope that many more healthcare professionals like you will begin to treat opioid-dependent patients and help them achieve successful outcomes through a combination of psychosocial counseling and SUBOXONE therapy (*See attached full prescribing information*).

Thank you for your commitment to providing much needed treatment to the millions of individuals who are affected by the disease of opioid dependence. Please visit us at **www.suboxone.com** or call us at **1-877-SUBOXONE (1-877-782-6966)** to access our available resources. We look forward to assisting you in your efforts to help opioid-dependent patients.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tim Baxter', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Tim Baxter, MD  
Global Medical Director  
Reckitt Benckiser Pharmaceuticals Inc.

**P.S. Please contact any patients you have on a waiting list immediately after submitting your second notification, so that they can begin treatment as soon as possible.**

## **KEY POINT SUMMARY**

*Please keep this summary for your future reference*

**Physicians who submitted their first notification of intent at least one year ago are now permitted to treat up to 100 opioid-dependent patients in their office.**

**To treat additional patients, physicians must submit a second notification of intent to SAMHSA stating their intention to treat additional patients.**

**There are *three* ways a physician can submit the notification:**

- 1) Fill out the enclosed form and fax it to SAMHSA at 240-276-1630**
- 2) Fill the form out online at: <http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov>**
- 3) Fill out the enclosed form and mail it to:**  
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration  
Division of Pharmacologic Therapies  
Attention: Opioid Treatment Waiver Program  
One Choke Cherry Road, Rm 2-1063  
Rockville, MD 20857

**There are patients in your area currently seeking treatment.**

To locate additional patients:

- 1) Please add your name to the SAMHSA Physician Locator. To add your name, please visit the buprenorphine website at <http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov>.
- 2) Please participate in the Patient/Physician Match Program developed by the National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment (NAABT) located at NAABT.org.

**Counseling is crucial for best outcomes**

Pharmacotherapy combined with psychosocial counseling provides the best outcomes for opioid-dependent patients.

**Resources are available**

Please call 1-877-SUBOXONE, visit [www.suboxone.com](http://www.suboxone.com), or contact your Reckitt Benckiser Clinical Liaison.