

# The Ongoing Opioid Epidemic: Addiction and Reversal Management in the Emergency Department

A HealthTrust Webinar

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# Speaker Disclosures

- ▶ The presenter and their preceptor have no financial relationships with any commercial interests pertinent to this presentation.
- ▶ This program may contain the mention of drugs, brands or suppliers presented in a case study or comparative format using evidence-based research. Such examples are intended for educational and informational purposes and should not be perceived as an endorsement of any particular drug, brand or supplier.

# Objectives

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Recall current guideline recommendations and current use of naloxone in opioid overdoses

Identify proper therapeutic strategies for treatment of opioid withdrawal

Recognize the legal components for prescribing medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction management

# Background

# Opioid Overdose and Withdrawal Signs & Symptoms

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## Overdose

Pale skin color, cyanotic lips/fingernails

Constricted pupils

Bradycardia

Respiratory depression

Unarousable

## Withdrawal

Anxiety

Tachycardia

Diaphoresis

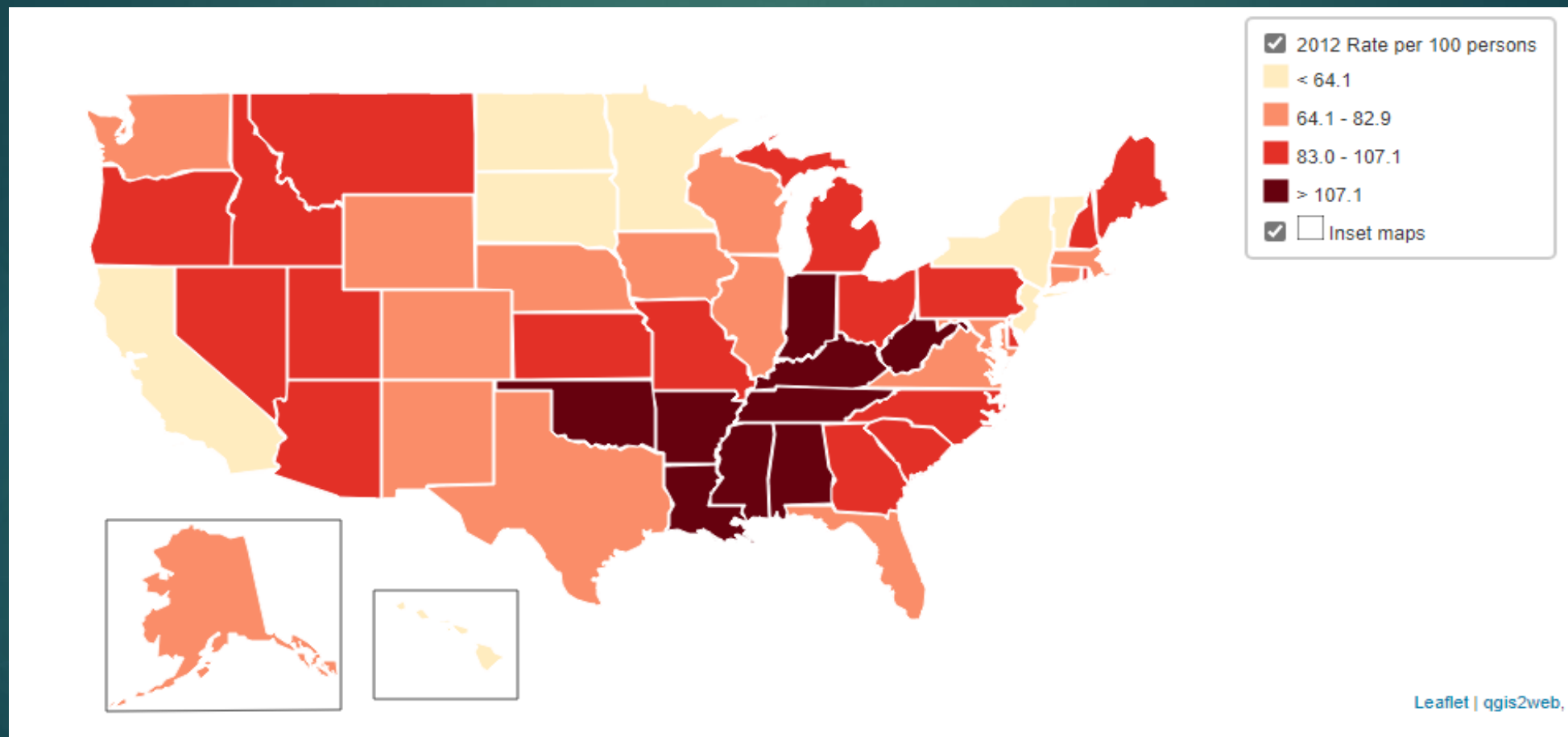
Restlessness

Dilated pupils

Nausea/Vomiting

# U.S. State Opioid Dispensing Rates, 2012

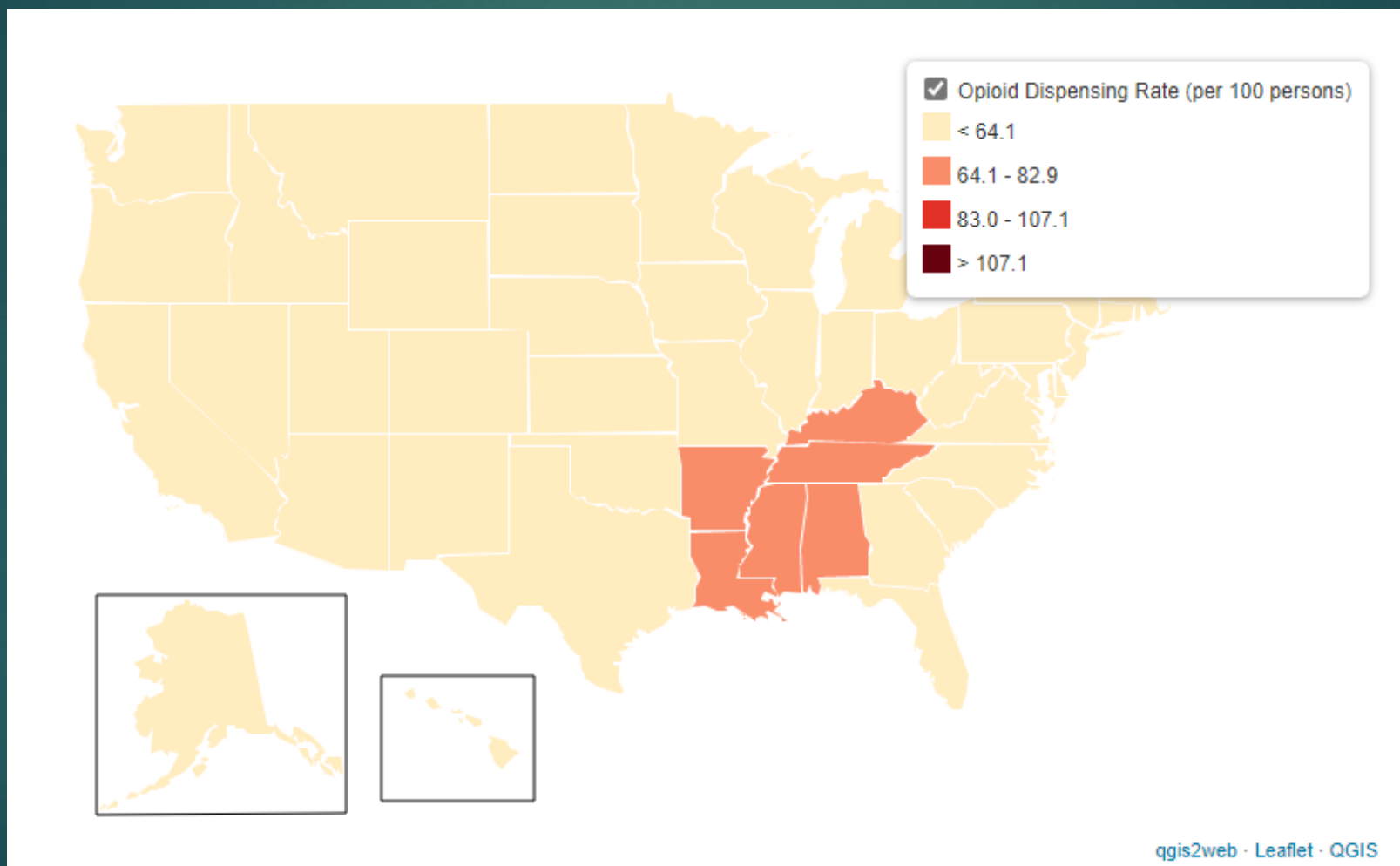
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Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/rxrate-maps/state2012.html>

# U.S. State Opioid Dispensing Rates, 2020

7



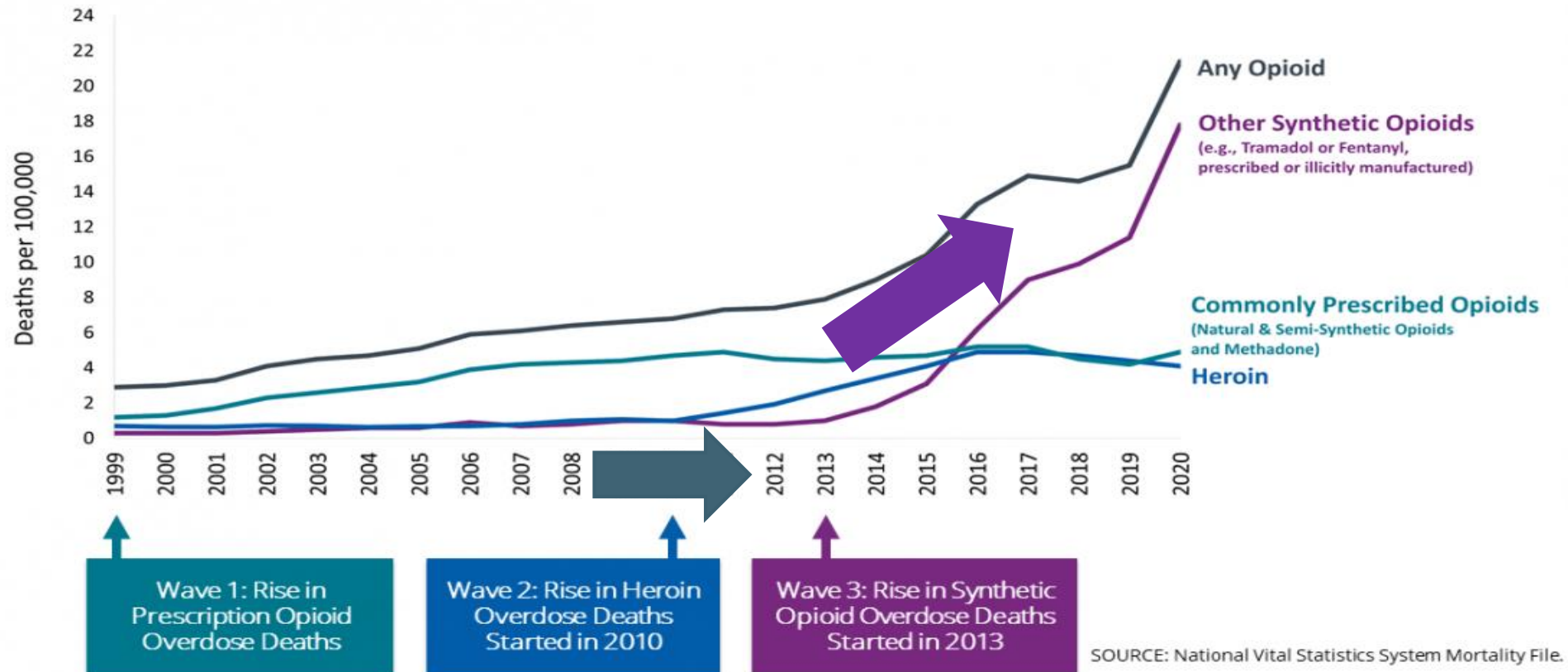
Source: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/rxrate-maps/state2020.html>

# Overdose-Related Death Statistics

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- ▶ 68,000 deaths in 2020
- ▶ 8.5x the rate in 1999

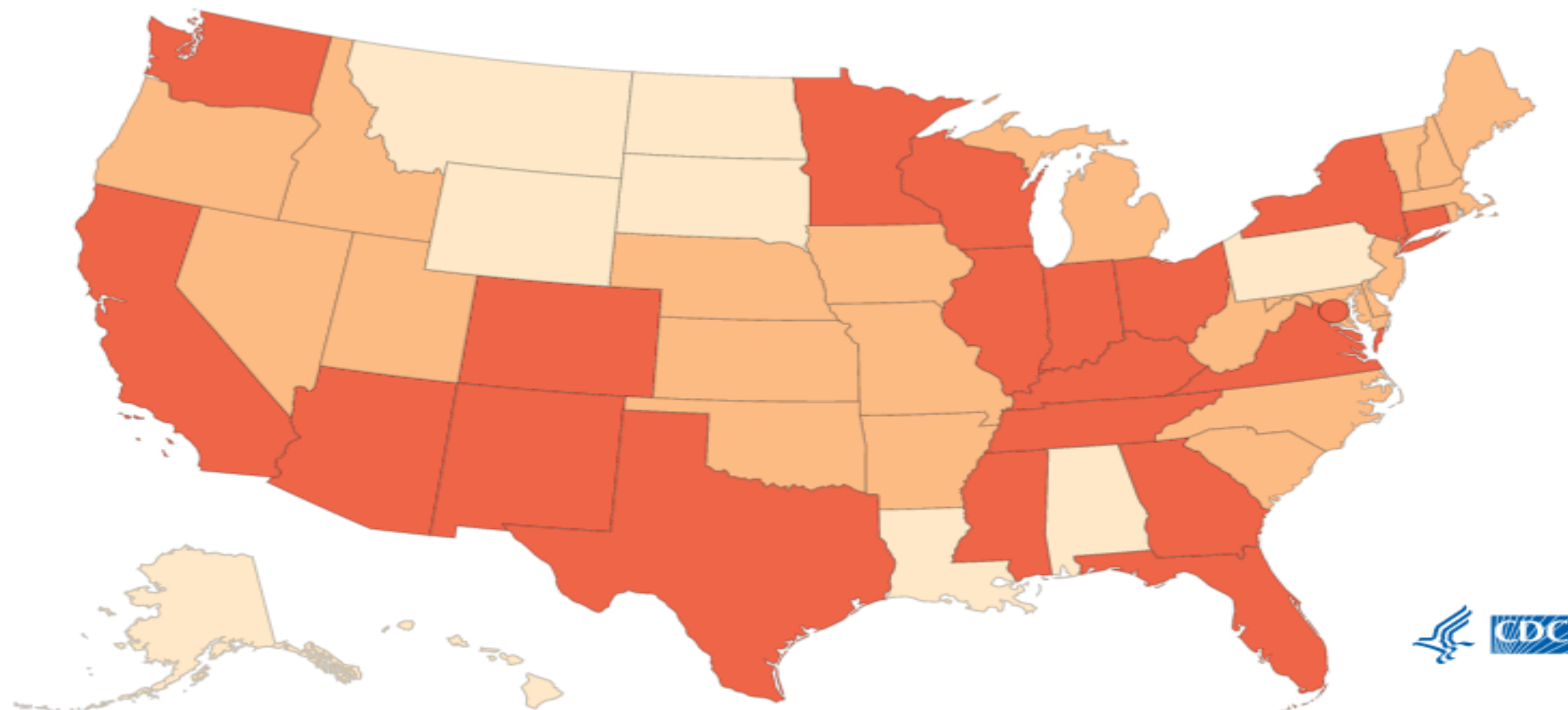
## Three Waves of Opioid Overdose Deaths





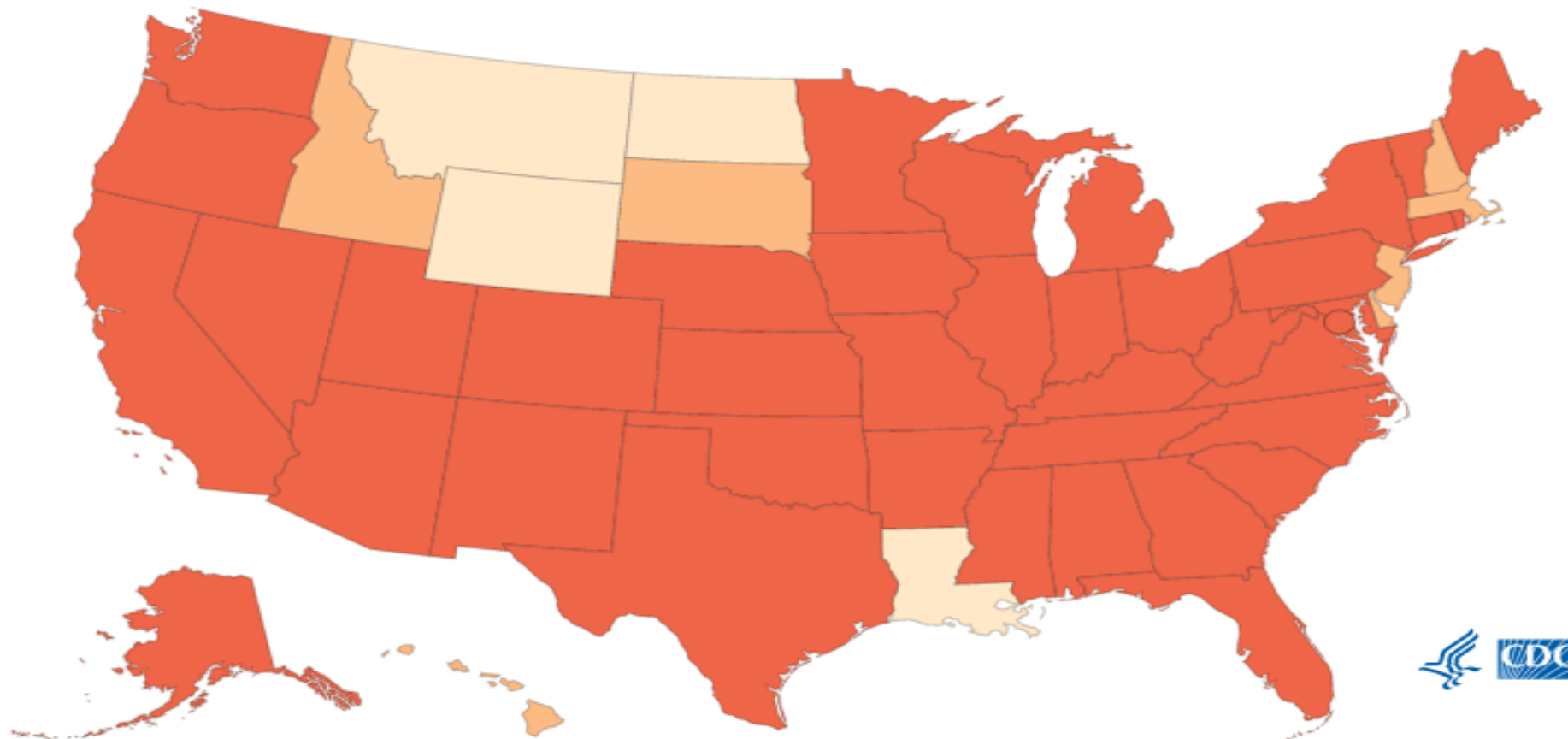
## Changes in drug overdose death rates involving synthetic opioids by select states, United States, 2018 to 2019

9



## Changes in drug overdose death rates involving synthetic opioids by select states, United States, 2019 to 2020

10



### Category

Did not meet inclusion criteria

Stable

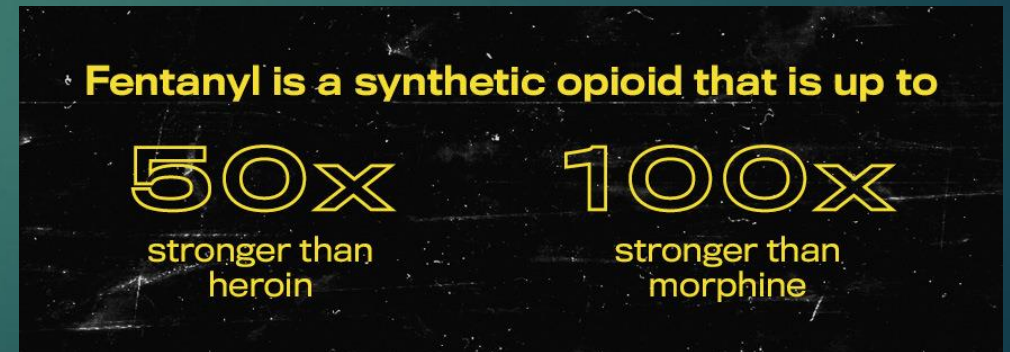
Increase

# The Problem With Fentanyl

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- ▶ Increased illegal usage
- ▶ Commonly laced with other drugs
  - ▶ Heroin, cocaine, methamphetamine
  - ▶ Made into tablets to resemble other prescription opioids
  - ▶ Liquid fentanyl can be added to nasal sprays, eye drops, candies
- ▶ Potential for prescription abuse

Drug	Equianalgesic Doses (mg)	
	Parenteral	Oral
Morphine	10	30
Buprenorphine	0.3	0.4 (sl)
Codeine	100	200
Fentanyl	0.1	NA
Hydrocodone	NA	30
Hydromorphone	1.5	7.5
Meperidine	100	300
Oxycodone	10*	20
Oxymorphone	1	10
Tramadol	100*	120



Source:  
<https://cdn.sanity.io/images/0vv8moc6/hcplive/7e834fef61487280617d8dd225a9bea871046bc4-630x444.png?fit=crop&auto=format>

Source: Centers for Disease Control. Fentanyl Facts. Reviewed February 23, 2022

# Fentanyl Test Strips

12

Nearly impossible to determine if drugs are laced with fentanyl

Differing state laws may affect distribution/availability

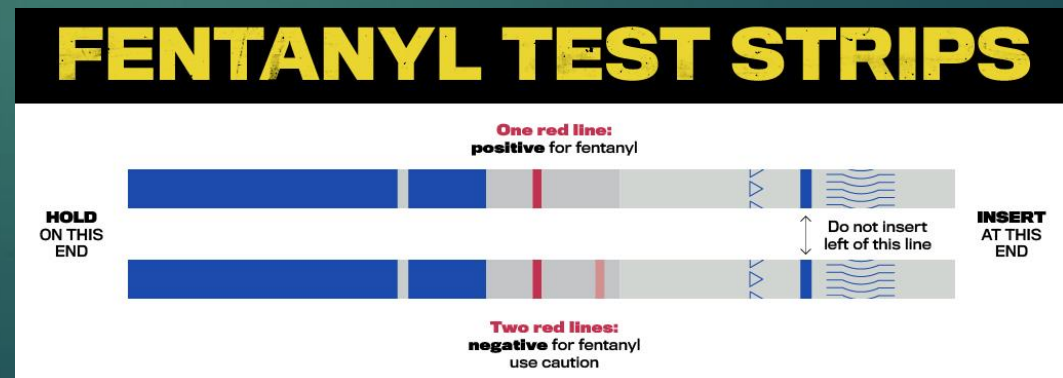
96-100% accurate in detecting fentanyl

- Possible cross-reactivity with methamphetamine and diphenhydramine

May not detect more potent fentanyl analogs

Source: Centers for Disease Control. Fentanyl Test Strips: A Harm Reduction Strategy. Reviewed September 30, 2022.

Legislative Analysis and Public Policy Association. Fentanyl Test Strips. Published May 2021



# Urine Drug Screening

13

Most commonly will be able to detect morphine

- Metabolite of heroin, codeine
- 6-MAM metabolite can be specifically assessed for to determine heroin use

Can use additional screening assays to detect semisynthetic opioids

- Hydrocodone, hydromorphone, oxycodone, oxymorphone

Synthetic opioids are NOT detected by routine screening

- Lack of morphine metabolites

**Table I: Opioid Window of Detection.**

6-MAM	8 hours
Buprenorphine	1 to 4 days
Codeine	1 to 2 days
Heroin	30 minutes
Hydrocodone	1 to 2 days
Hydromorphone	1 to 4 days
Methadone	3 to 11 days
Morphine	1 to 3 days
Oxycodone	1 to 3 days
Oxymorphone	1 to 4 days

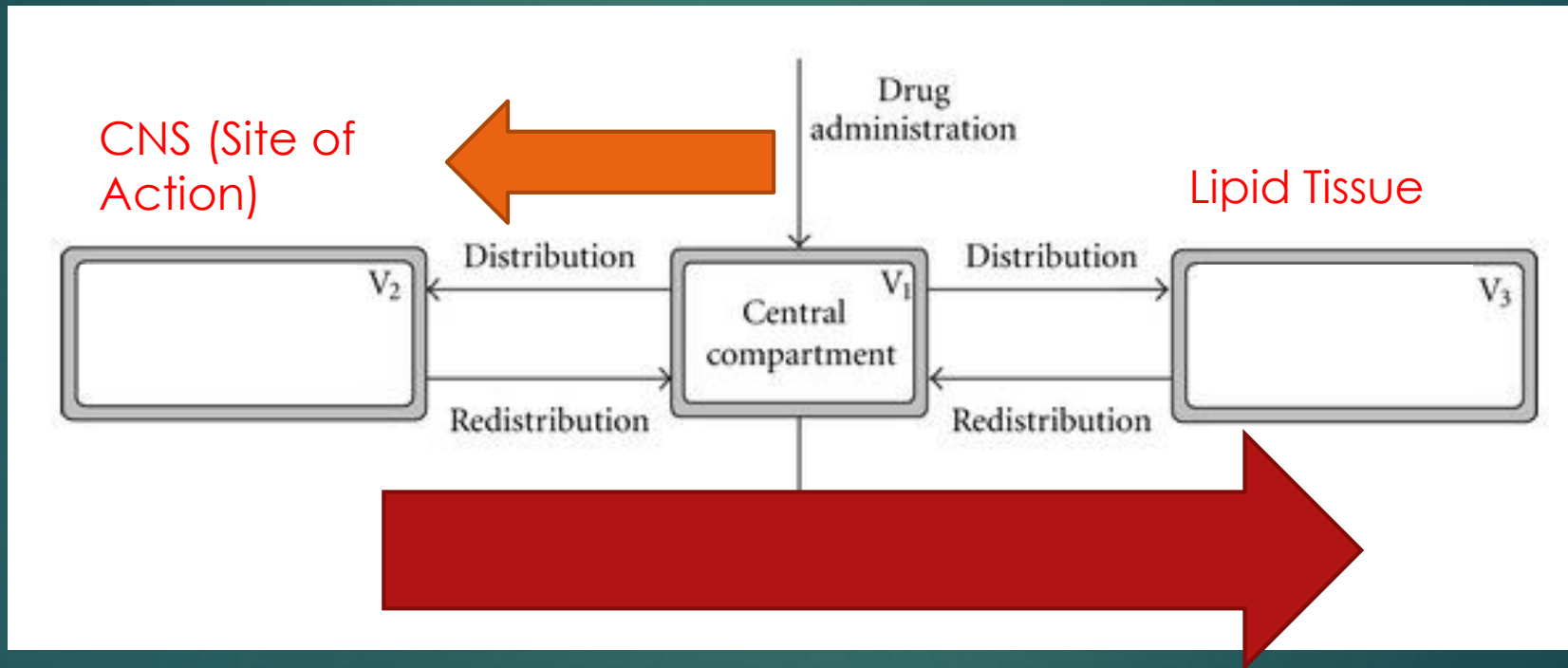
Source:

[https://images.ctfassets.net/59984t4qg9dz/ppm\\_wysiwyg\\_fid11319\\_asset/72943968e1c4906426d34e2ff3af3d6f/Table\\_1.jpg](https://images.ctfassets.net/59984t4qg9dz/ppm_wysiwyg_fid11319_asset/72943968e1c4906426d34e2ff3af3d6f/Table_1.jpg)

# Pharmacokinetics of Fentanyl

14

- Follows a three compartment model



Source: <https://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/c/c4/Schematic-representation-of-a-three-compartment-model.png.jpg>

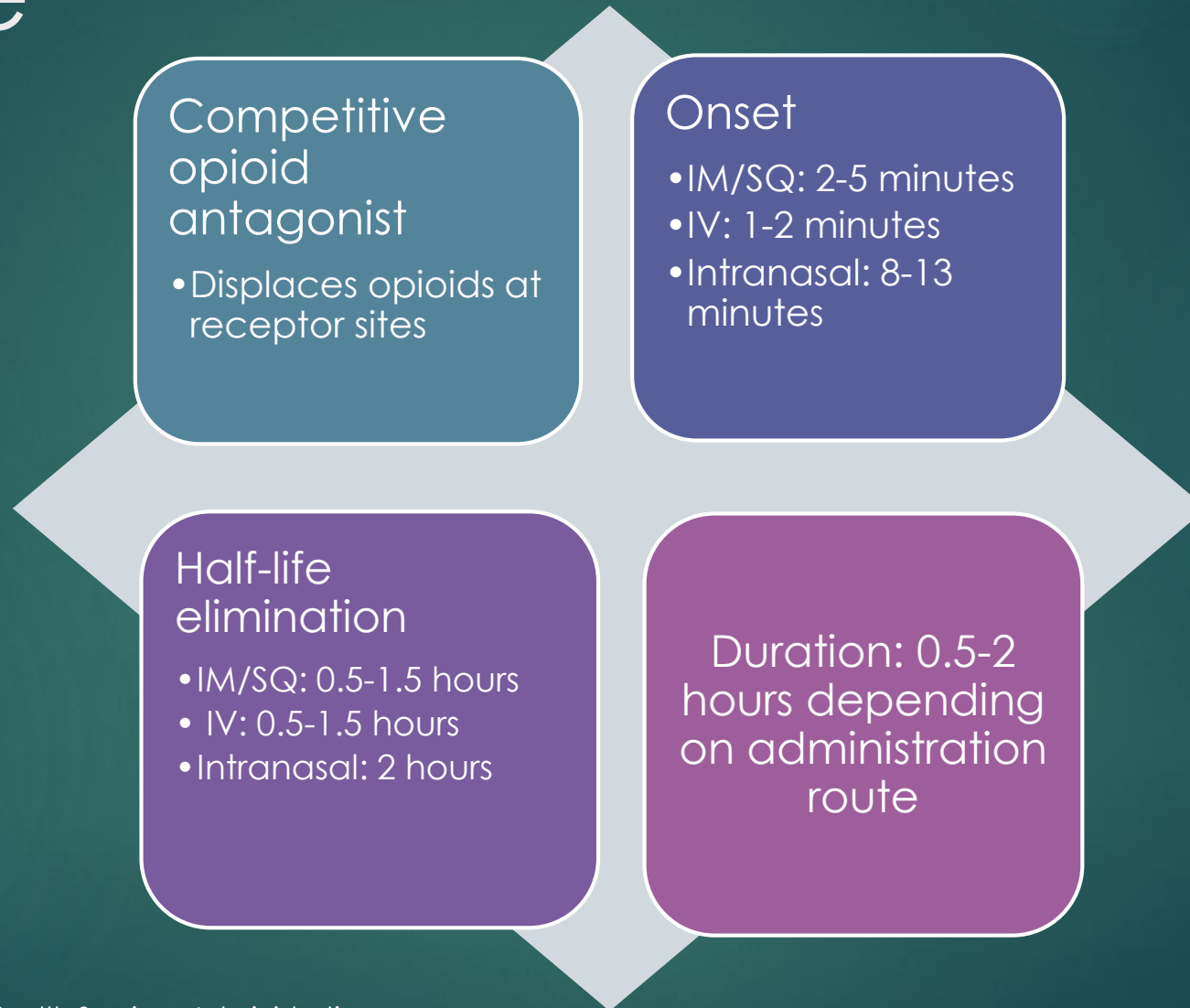
Source: Huhn AS, Hobelmann JG, Oyler GA, Strain EC, . *Drug Alcohol Depend.* 2020



# Current Recommendations for Opioid Overdose Management

# Naloxone

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Source: Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration.  
What is Naloxone? Updated September 27, 2022

Source: Naloxone: Drug Information. UpToDate



# Naloxone Dosage Forms



Nasal spray

Prefilled syringe

Nasal liquid

Prefilled syringe  
kit (community  
use)

Solution for  
injection

Solution  
auto-injector

# Naloxone Administration in the ED Setting

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Administer in significant  
CNS and/or respiratory  
depression

Adult: 0.4-2 mg

Pediatric: 0.1 mg/kg

Doses can be repeated  
every 3-5 minutes, up to  
10 mg

For more frequent opioid  
users:

Consider slow  
administration with 0.1-  
0.4 mg IV aliquots  
every 1-2 minutes for  
more controlled opioid  
reversal

May consider continuous  
infusion for longer acting  
opioids (i.e. methadone) or  
sustained release products

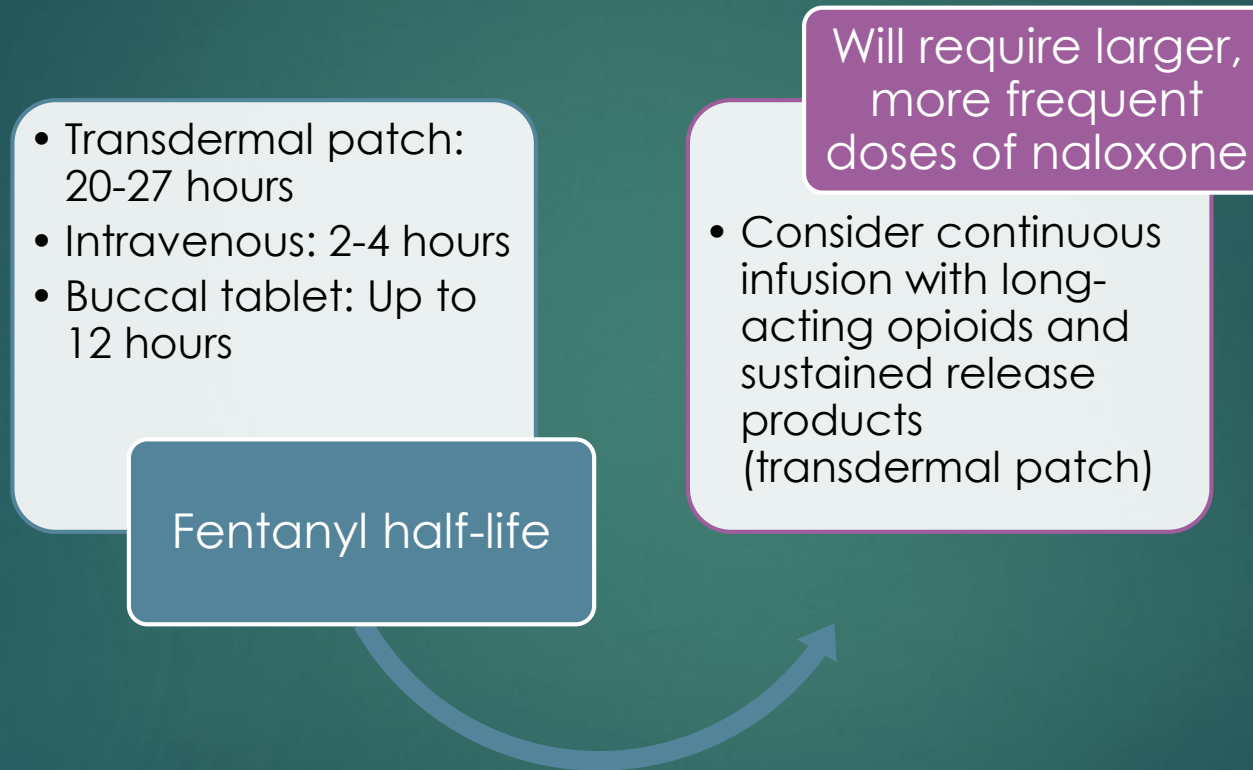
Dosed using two-thirds  
of initial effective  
naloxone bolus on an  
hourly basis

Source: Naloxone: Drug Information. UpToDate

Source: Stephens E. Opioid Toxicity Treatment &  
Management. Medscape. Updated October 21, 2021

# Naloxone for Fentanyl Overdose

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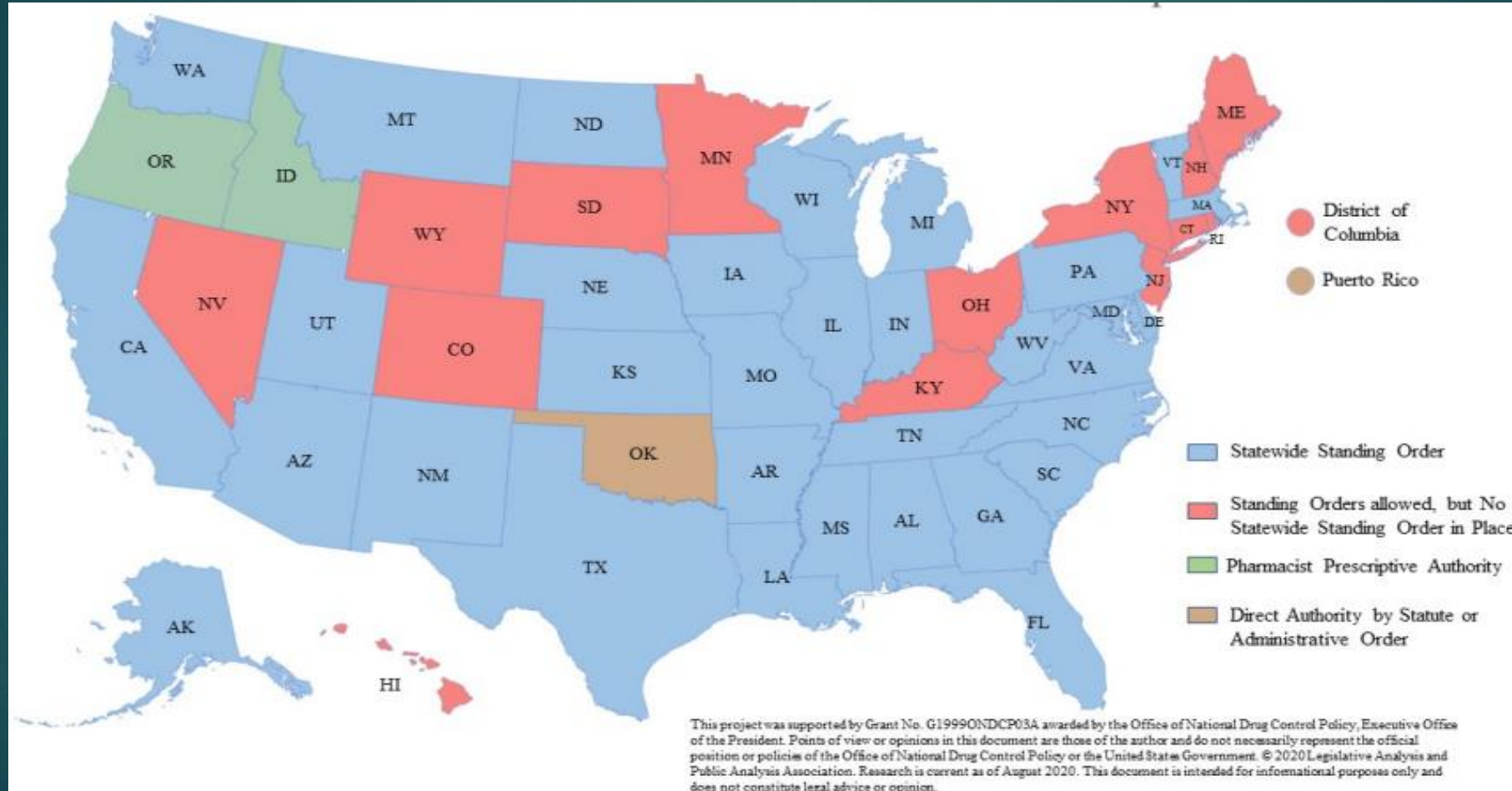
Source: Stephens E. Opioid Toxicity Treatment & Management. Medscape. Updated October 21, 2021

Source: Fentanyl: Drug Information. UpToDate

# State Naloxone Access Rules and Resources

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- Find the specific laws for your state [here](#)



# Community Opioid Overdose Prevention Initiatives

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## Good Samaritan law

- Grants immunity to individuals who “act in good faith”
- Adopted by 48 states as of 2020

## Newer state legislation making naloxone available for use by first responders

- Police officers, firefighters, correctional officers, emergency medical technicians

## Naloxone vending machines

- Becoming implemented in county jails, hospitals, community centers across the country

## Access in schools

- 27 states have statutory language regarding the authorization of access to naloxone as of 2020

Source: Legislative Analysis and Public Society Policy Association. Naloxone Access: Summary of State Laws. Published September 2020.

Source: The ASAM National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder: 2020 Focused Update.

# Naloxone-Precipitated Withdrawal (NPW)

22

Symptoms of precipitated withdrawal have a faster onset with greater severity

Need for managing NPW likely increasing with community initiatives

## IV Naloxone

- Severe symptoms
- Lasts about 45 minutes

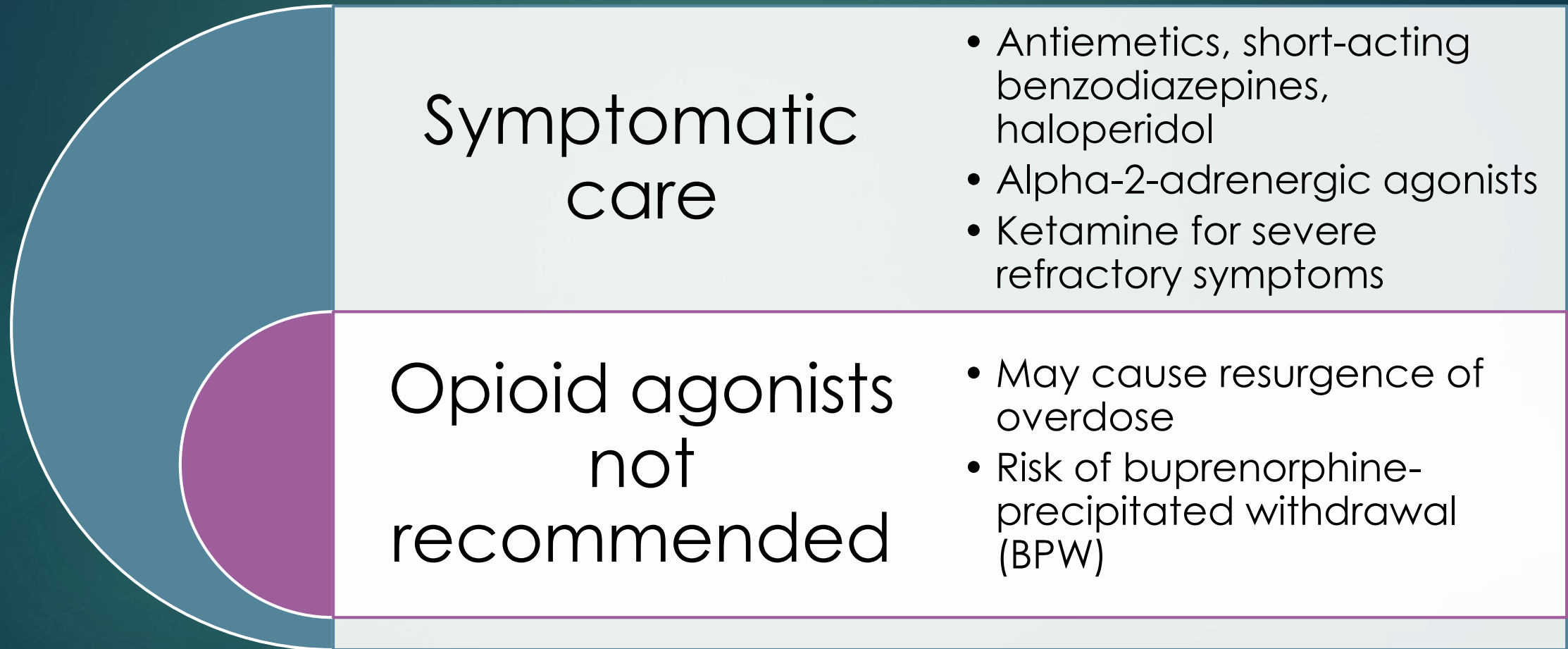
## IM/Intranasal Naloxone

- Moderate symptoms
- Lasts about 75 minutes



# Naloxone-precipitated Withdrawal (NPW)

23



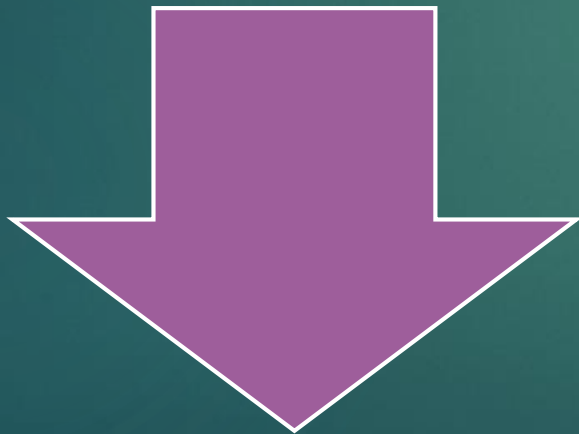
# Naloxone Use in Pregnancy

24



Treatment should **not** be withheld in cases of overdose to save the mother's life

- Start on lower end of dosing range
- Not recommended for testing opioid dependence



Induced withdrawal may contribute to preterm labor and/or fetal distress

Source: The ASAM National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder: 2020 Focused Update.

Source: American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Opioid Use and Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy. Committee Opinion. 2017



# Knowledge check 1

25

- ▶ True or False: Naloxone use in pregnant patients poses a high risk for preterm labor or fetal distress.

# Knowledge check 1: Correct Response

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- ▶ **True** or False: Naloxone use in pregnant patients poses a high risk for preterm labor or fetal distress.

# Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT)

# Methadone

28

Long-acting opioid agonist

- Slow 3-5 day onset with frequent dosing

Initial dose: 2.5-10 mg

- Typical maintenance range: 60-120 mg daily

Only available through opioid treatment programs (OTP)

- Cannot be prescribed for treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD)

Variable, long half-life: 8-59 hours

- Prolonged in alkaline pH

Can transition to buprenorphine with minimal discomfort

- May experience discomfort with methadone doses above 40 mg

# Naltrexone

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Long-acting competitive opioid antagonist

- Half-life: 5-10 days

Dosed 380 mg via intramuscular monthly injection

- Option for oral formulation but use not recommended

Increased sensitivity to opioids and diminished tolerance

- Increased risk of overdose if opioid use is resumed

Must not have any remaining physical dependence to opioids

- Short-acting opioids: Wait 6 days
- Long-acting opioids: Wait 7-10 days
- Naloxone challenge

No prescribing restrictions

- Other barriers to use in the ED

# Naloxone Challenge

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Completed if uncertain  
on status of opioid  
dependence

If withdrawal symptoms  
are present after onset,  
forgo the challenge and  
treat symptomatically

May give IV, IM, SQ  
as a single dose

- IV: 0.2 mg,  
followed by 0.6  
mg dose
- IM: 0.4-0.8 mg
- SQ: 0.8 mg

Source: Naloxone: Drug Information. UpToDate

Source: The ASAM National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use  
Disorder: 2020 Focused Update.

# Buprenorphine

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Partial opioid agonist with high affinity to pain receptors in the CNS

- Partial agonist properties lead to an eventual plateau in analgesic effect
- Will displace any present full opioid agonists (risk of BPW)

May be prescribed in office setting through waivers per the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA 2000)

- Relieved need for OTPs

Combination products with buprenorphine/naloxone made to discourage IV use in the community setting

# Buprenorphine Versus Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy

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- ▶ Examined 45,992 total exposed pregnancies
- ▶ Examined outcomes after exposure to either buprenorphine or methadone

	Early Pregnancy (up to 19 weeks' gestation)	Late Pregnancy (gestation week 20 to delivery)	30 days before delivery	Total
Methadone	4,387	5,056	4,597	14,040
Buprenorphine	10,704	11,272	9,976	31,952
Total	15,091	16,328	14,573	45,992



# Buprenorphine Versus Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy

33

- ▶ Results of exposure in late versus early pregnancy were consistent

Neonatal outcomes (%)				
	Neonatal abstinence syndrome*	Preterm birth	Small size for gestational age	Low birth weight
Methadone	69.2	24.9	15.3	14.9
Buprenorphine	52	14.4	12.1	8.3
Adjusted Relative Risk (95% CI)	0.73 (0.71-0.75)	0.58 (0.53-0.62)	0.72 (0.66-0.80)	0.56 (0.5-0.63)

\*Occurrence of infants exposed only in the 30 days prior to delivery

- ▶ Buprenorphine associated with lower risk of adverse neonatal outcomes

# Buprenorphine Versus Methadone for Opioid Use Disorder in Pregnancy

34

- ▶ Results of exposure in late versus early pregnancy were consistent

Maternal Outcomes (%)		
	Delivery by cesarean section	Severe maternal complications
Methadone	33.1	3.5
Buprenorphine	33.6	3.3
Adjusted Relative Risk (95% CI)	1.02 (0.97-1.08)	0.91 (0.74-1.13)

- ▶ Similar maternal outcomes between buprenorphine and methadone

# Buprenorphine Formulations

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## Buprenorphine

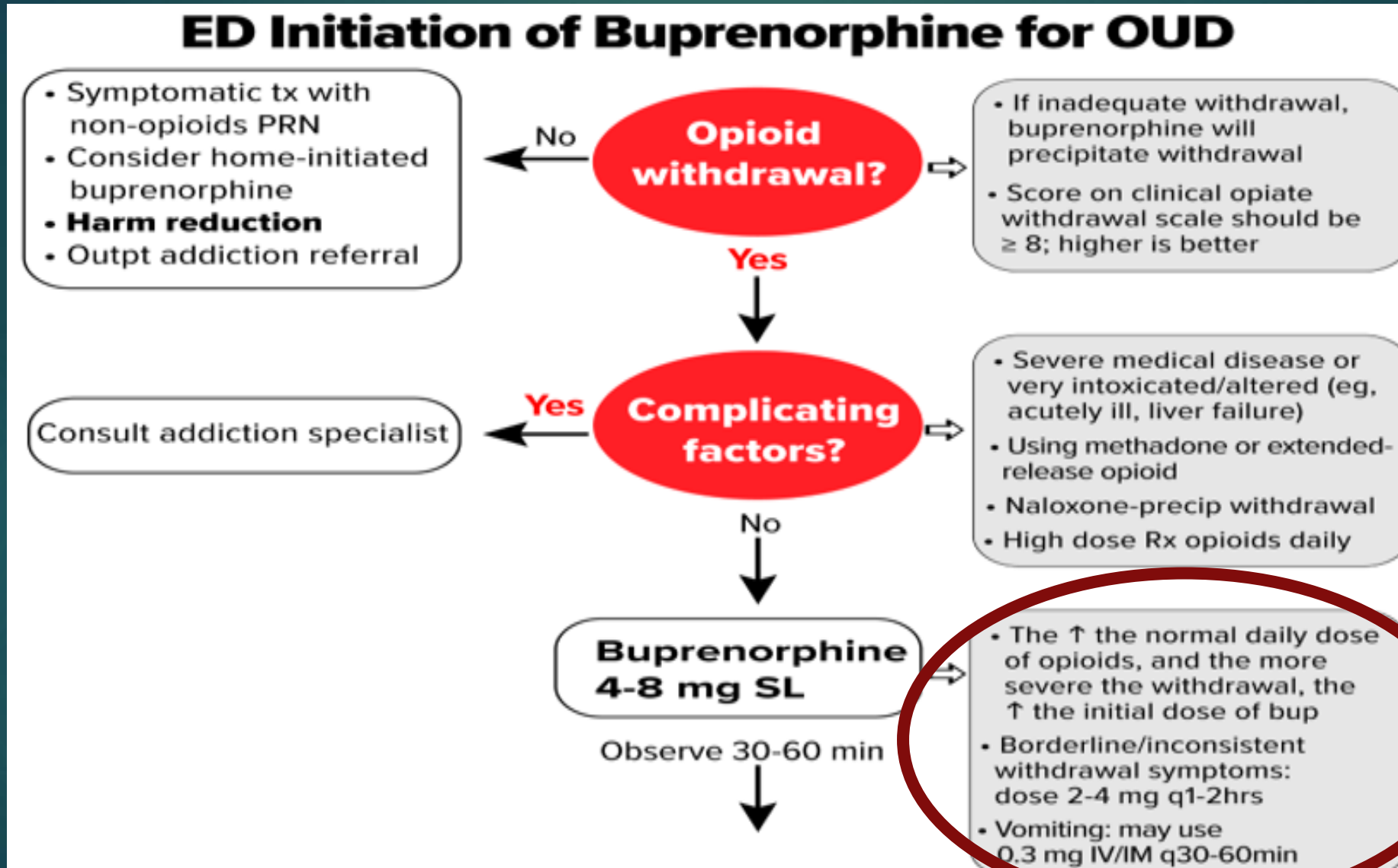
- Sublingual tablet (Subutex®)
- Buccal film (Belbuca®)
- Extended-release injection (Sublocade®, Brixadi®)
- Subcutaneous implant (Probuphine®)

## Buprenorphine/Naloxone

- Sublingual tablet (Suboxone®)
- Sublingual film (Zubsolv®)

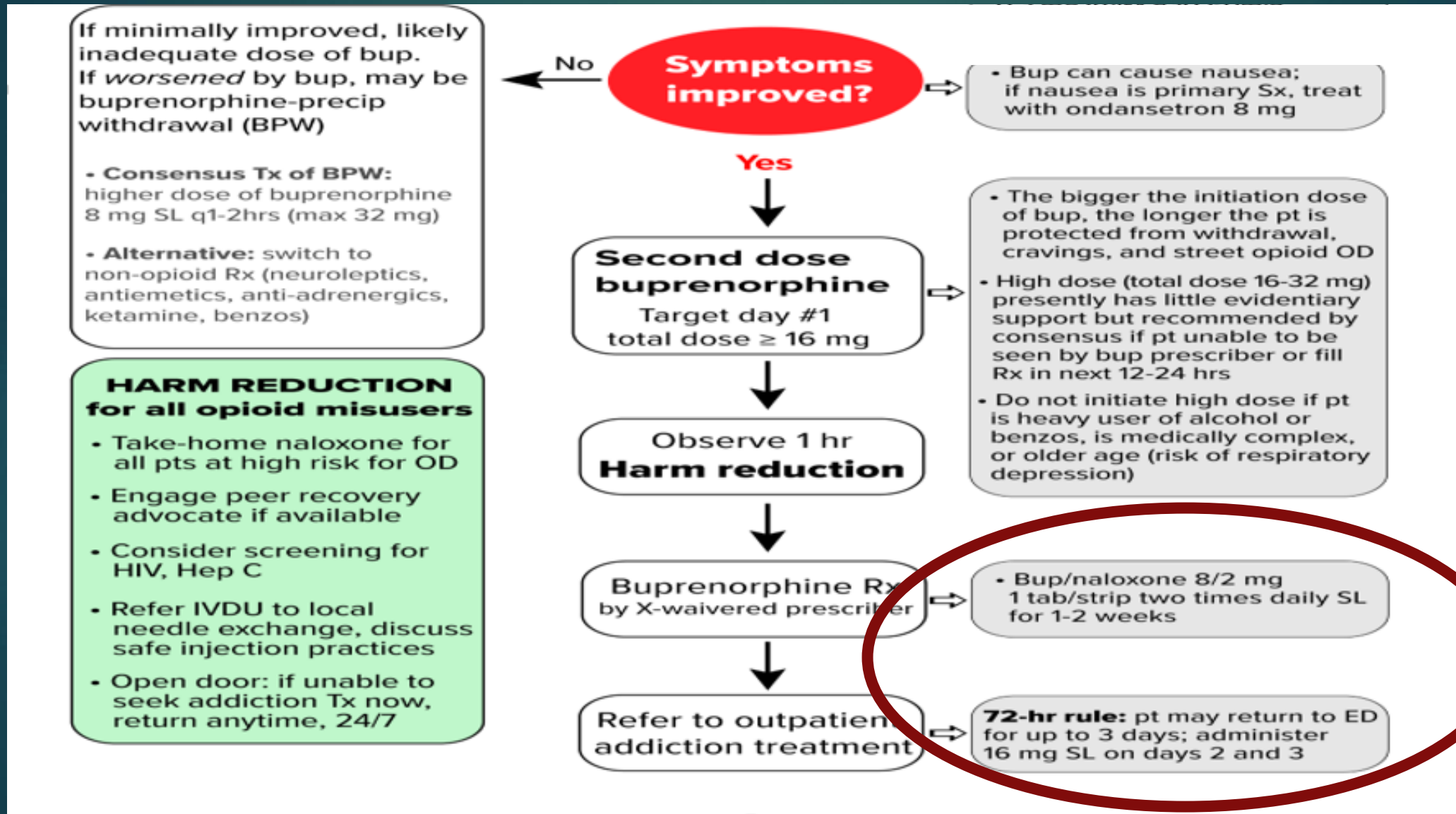
# Buprenorphine Initiation in the ED

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# Buprenorphine Initiation in the ED

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# Importance of Buprenorphine Initiation in the ED

- ▶ Randomized controlled trial from 2009-2013 (n=329)
- ▶ Increased engagement in formal outpatient treatment at 30 days

## Results of a Randomized Control Trial on ED-initiated Buprenorphine for OUD Treatment

Dose	ED-initiated Buprenorphine	Brief Intervention with Facilitated Referral	Referral Only
Engaged in treatment at 30 days	78%	45%	37%
Self-reported past 7-day opioid use at 30 days	0.9 days	2.4 days	2.3 days

Source: D'Onofrio, G., O'Connor, P.G., Pantalon, M.V., Chawarski, M.C., Busch, S.H., Owens, P.H., Bernstein, S.L., and Fiellin, D.A. (2015) Emergency department-initiated buprenorphine/naloxone treatment for opioid dependence: A randomized clinical trial. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 313, 1636-1644.



# Buprenorphine-Precipitated Withdrawal (BPW) in Fentanyl Use

Displacement of long-acting opioid agonists (i.e. fentanyl)

May result in buprenorphine-precipitated withdrawal

Use the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS) to determine withdrawal risk

Wait until score is  $>7$

May delay first buprenorphine dose until mild-moderate withdrawal symptoms

Avoids severe symptoms from potential BPW

# Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale

- 11-item scale used to rate and monitor signs/symptoms of opioid withdrawal

<b>Resting Pulse Rate:</b> _____ beats/minute <i>Measured after patient is sitting or lying for one minute</i> 0 pulse rate 80 or below 1 pulse rate 81-100 2 pulse rate 101-120 4 pulse rate greater than 120	<b>GI Upset: over last 1/2 hour</b> 0 no GI symptoms 1 stomach cramps 2 nausea or loose stool 3 vomiting or diarrhea 5 multiple episodes of diarrhea or vomiting
<b>Sweating: over past 1/2 hour not accounted for by room temperature or patient activity.</b> 0 no report of chills or flushing 1 subjective report of chills or flushing 2 flushed or observable moistness on face 3 beads of sweat on brow or face 4 sweat streaming off face	<b>Tremor observation of outstretched hands</b> 0 no tremor 1 tremor can be felt, but not observed 2 slight tremor observable 4 gross tremor or muscle twitching
<b>Restlessness Observation during assessment</b> 0 able to sit still 1 reports difficulty sitting still, but is able to do so 3 frequent shifting or extraneous movements of legs/arms 5 unable to sit still for more than a few seconds	<b>Yawning Observation during assessment</b> 0 no yawning 1 yawning once or twice during assessment 2 yawning three or more times during assessment 4 yawning several times/minute
<b>Pupil size</b> 0 pupils pinned or normal size for room light 1 pupils possibly larger than normal for room light 2 pupils moderately dilated 5 pupils so dilated that only the rim of the iris is visible	<b>Anxiety or Irritability</b> 0 none 1 patient reports increasing irritability or anxiousness 2 patient obviously irritable or anxious 4 patient so irritable or anxious that participation in the assessment is difficult
<b>Bone or Joint aches</b> <i>If patient was having pain previously, only the additional component attributed to opiates withdrawal is scored</i> 0 not present 1 mild diffuse discomfort 2 patient reports severe diffuse aching of joints/muscles 4 patient is rubbing joints or muscles and is unable to sit still because of discomfort	<b>Gooseflesh skin</b> 0 skin is smooth 3 piloerection of skin can be felt or hairs standing up on arms 5 prominent piloerection
<b>Runny nose or tearing</b> <i>Not accounted for by cold symptoms or allergies</i> 0 not present 1 nasal stuffiness or unusually moist eyes 2 nose running or tearing 4 nose constantly running or tears streaming down cheeks	<div style="text-align: right;">Total Score _____</div> <div style="text-align: center;">The total score is the sum of all 11 items</div> Initials of person completing assessment: _____

Score: 5-12 = mild; 13-24 = moderate; 25-36 = moderately severe; more than 36 = severe withdrawal



# Alpha-2-Adrenergic Agonists for Withdrawal Management

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Long history of off-label use in treating opioid withdrawal

Often combined with non-narcotic medications to target specific withdrawal symptoms

Concomitantly used with other MAT during tapers

Use is often limited by hypotensive effect

# Knowledge Check 2

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- ▶ True or False: While in the emergency department setting, administration of buprenorphine is not sufficient for opioid use disorder in the ED and buprenorphine/naloxone combination products should be used instead.

# Knowledge Check 2: Correct Response

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- ▶ True or **False**: While in the emergency department setting, administration of buprenorphine is not sufficient for MAT in the ED and buprenorphine/naloxone combination products should be used instead.

# Legal Requirements for Prescribing MAT

# Determining Permissibility of Treatment With Buprenorphine in the ER

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A DATA 2000  
waiver is  
required to  
prescribe  
buprenorphine

- Not required  
for  
administering  
in the ED

# “72-Hour Rule”

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- ▶ **21 CFR 1306.07(b)**: “Nothing in this section shall prohibit a physician who is not specifically registered to conduct a narcotic treatment program from administering (but not prescribing) narcotic drugs to a person for the purpose of relieving acute withdrawal symptoms when necessary while arrangements are being made for referral for treatment. Not more than one day's medication may be administered to the person or for the person's use at one time. Such emergency treatment may be carried out for not more than three days and may not be renewed or extended.”

# Use of Institution Stock for MAT Initiation

- ▶ **21 CFR 1306.07(c)**: It is complicated
- ▶ Takeaway: A practitioner needs their own individual stock to dispense from if OUD is the primary diagnosis for dispensing MAT in an institution
  - ▶ Still need a DATA waiver to prescribe
  - ▶ The hospital/clinic may request an exemption to allow the practitioner to operate under its DEA number to write orders for dispensing/administering



# Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act

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- ▶ ASHP-supported opioid bill passed by the Senate on December 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022
- ▶ Proposal to remove the DATA waiver requirement for prescribing buprenorphine products for OUD



**BREAKING  
NEWS**

Source: <https://hfhnc.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/BREAKING-NEWS-GENERIC-1.jpg>

# Knowledge Check 3

49

- ▶ True or False: A DATA waiver is required to administer any buprenorphine formulation in the ER.

# Knowledge Check 3: Correct Response

50

- ▶ True or **False**: A DATA waiver is required to administer any buprenorphine formulation in the ER.

# Summary

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Even with a decrease in opioid prescribing, death rates from opioid overdose continue to increase mainly due to the continuing rise of illegal synthetic opioids

Correct use of naloxone is important for proper overdose management and avoidance of precipitated withdrawal

The initiation of MAT, particularly buprenorphine, within the ED is important but complex and requires follow up and coordination

# Resources

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- ▶ [Instructions to Request for Exception to Limitations on Dispensing for Opioid Use Disorder \(OUD\) \(usdoj.gov\)](#)
- ▶ [Fentanyl Facts \(cdc.gov\)](#)
- ▶ [State Naloxone Access Rules and Resources - SAFE Project](#)
- ▶ [Use of Medication-Assisted Treatment in Emergency Departments \(samhsa.gov\)](#)
- ▶ [Instructions to Request for Exception to Limitations on Dispensing for Opioid Use Disorder \(OUD\) \(usdoj.gov\)](#)

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# Thank you!

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