



# PHARMACY TIMES

BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT

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## New DHCS DUR Board Educational Article

IEHP reviews the DHCS DUR Board Educational Articles regularly for important information we can pass on to our Provider Network. From the DUR Board Website: *The purpose of this educational intervention component of DUR is to improve the quality and cost-effectiveness of prescribing and dispensing practices for Medi-Cal recipients. Educational interventions include ongoing dissemination of information through the Medi-Cal provider bulletin process about clinically important, drug-specific therapy problems. Disclaimer: These articles are the result of analyses carried out by the Global Medi-Cal DUR Program and are not official policies of the Department of Health Care Services (DHCS).*

Please find attached the newest article, entitled [Professional Organizations Push for Recall of Buprenorphine Dental Warning](#) was published February 15, 2022.



On January 24, 2022, a [letter](#) from the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) and ten other health professional associations called for the FDA to immediately and fully retract their Drug Safety Communication on dental problems associated with buprenorphine, which was based on 305 reported cases of dental problems since 2002. The authors note that nearly 2.4 million Americans took buprenorphine in 2019 alone (and many more than that since 2002), so it would not be possible to conclude a causal relationship between exposure to buprenorphine and dental pain, which more than 40% of Americans have experienced during the past year.

With over a million opioid overdoses since 1999, buprenorphine is an effective – yet still underutilized – tool in treating opioid use disorder (OUD), reducing mortality from opioid use disorder by over 50%. Health care providers can help alleviate patient concerns about dental problems by affirming the FDA recommendations that the benefits of buprenorphine clearly outweigh potential risks.

For questions or comments, please call us at (909) 890-2049.

Sincerely,  
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