

Primary care provider focus group

Introduction/Welcome

1. *Thank participants for their participation in the focus group*
2. *This focus group is a part of our study on implementing LAI buprenorphine*
3. *The purpose of the focus groups is to get recommendations for LAI bupe implementation efforts.*
4. *Introduce focus group team*
5. *Will be recording today's focus group; before the recording starts review informed consent documents*
6. *Ground rules*
 - *Not to use the chat feature*
7. *Questions?*

Discussion questions

Show 5 slides on LAI bupe for those who missed the educational session

LAI bupe & Provider needs

1. After completing the LAI bupe educational session 2 weeks ago:
 - a. How **confident** do you feel about **counseling patients** about LAI bupe?
 - i. Have you spoken to any patients about LAI bupe since the training? Why or why not?
 - b. How **confident** do you feel in your **ability to initiate** LAI bupe?
 - i. What would make you more confident in initiating LAI bupe?
 - c. What **challenges** do you anticipate you might encounter when providing LAI bupe to patients?
 - d. To what extent do you see **LAI bupe fitting into your practice** as a PCP?
 - i. How much do you see yourself being able to **prioritize this** with your current buprenorphine patients? With patients who are new to buprenorphine?
 - e. How do you anticipate **introducing/promoting LAI bupe** to your current patients? To your new patients?

Patient needs

2. Are there any **benefits** LAI bupe might have for PC CLINIC patients? Any **downsides**? How about compared to sBUPE?
3. I'd like to take a minute to review a **handout** we've developed.
 - a. What are your initial thoughts about the handout?
 - b. What information would patients want before they decide whether or not to receive LAI bupe?
4. What would be the best way to **introduce LAI bupe** to patients?
 - a. Nursing bringing up LAI BUPE with patients
 - b. Demonstration- empty syringe
 - c. Handouts
 - d. Posters
 - e. Other
5. For some patients, a month between visits may be a lot, especially if they are just starting out with buprenorphine. What, if any, support could the clinic provide in between monthly visits?
 - a. Phone calls?
 - b. Text messages?

- c. Telehealth appointment?
- d. Visits with a provider?
- e. Visits with other clinic staff?

Organization-level considerations

- 6. What **challenges** might PC CLINIC experience with trying to integrate LAI bupe into the current bupe framework?
 - a. Workflow issues: scheduling pts for injections
- 7. How do buprenorphine services **fit in** with other PC CLINIC projects and initiatives? How important are bupe services? What about injectable buprenorphine?

Wrap-up

Primary care front desk staff, administrators and nurses focus group

Introduction/Welcome

1. *Thank participants for their participation in the focus group*
2. *The purpose of the focus groups is to learn more about their experiences with and opinions on buprenorphine services at PC CLINIC and get recommendations for starting to offer injectable buprenorphine.*
3. *Introduce focus group team;*
4. *Will be recording today's focus group; before the recording starts review informed consent documents*
5. *Incentive will be shared at the end of the focus group;*
6. *Ground rules*
 - *May have to limit comments – want to make sure everyone has a chance to share*
 - *One person talking at a time so we can all follow conversation*
7. *Questions?*

Discussion questions

LAIB: Facilitator will review ~5 slides about buprenorphine and LAIB

Bupe in general

1. What are your thoughts about PC CLINIC's current buprenorphine services?
 - a. What is working well?
 - b. What is challenging?
2. Having seen the slides, what thoughts or questions do you have about LAIB?

Patient needs

3. Are there any benefits LAIB might have for PC CLINIC's patients? Any downsides?
4. What information would patients want before they decide whether or not to receive LAIB?
5. I'd like to take a minute to review a handout we've developed. We can read through this together.
 - a. What, if anything, do you like about the handout?
 - b. What about this handout do you not like or doesn't make sense?
6. What would be the best way to promote LAIB to patients?
 - a. Nursing bringing up LAIB with patients
 - b. Demonstration- empty syringe
 - c. Handouts
 - d. Posters
 - e. Other
7. For some patients, a month between visits may be a lot, especially if they are just starting out with buprenorphine. What, if any, support could the clinic provide in between monthly visits?
 - a. Phone calls?
 - b. Text messages?
 - c. Telehealth appointment?
 - d. Visits with a provider?
 - e. Visits with other clinic staff?

Organization-level considerations

8. What challenges might PC CLINIC experience with trying to integrate LAIB into the current bupe framework?

- a. Workflow issues: scheduling pts for injections
- 9. How do buprenorphine services fit in with other PC CLINIC projects and initiatives? How important are bupe services? What about injectable buprenorphine?

Staff needs

- 10. How comfortable do you think staff are talking about buprenorphine with patients?
- 11. What, if anything, should all staff know about buprenorphine?
- 12. What, if anything, would you personally need to feel more comfortable talking to patients about bupe? What about injectable buprenorphine?
- 13. What would be the best way to train PC CLINIC staff about bupe? LAIB?
 - a. What staff?
 - b. Training format?
 - i. Video training vs. in-person
 - ii. Duration
 - iii. Frequency
 - c. What general bupe content would you want to make sure was covered?
- 14. What did we forget to ask about?

Wrap-up

SSP harm reduction staff focus group

Introduction/Welcome

1. Thank participants for volunteering to participate in the working group
2. The purpose of the working groups is to learn more about your experiences with and opinions on buprenorphine services at (SSP) and get recommendations for starting to offer injectable buprenorphine. This is a part of a research study on how to offer injectable buprenorphine to (SSP) participants.
3. Introduce focus group team;
4. Introductions of working group members- name and role at (SSP)
5. Will be recording today's focus group; before the recording starts review informed consent documents
6. Reimbursement of \$50 debit cards be shared at the end of the focus group;
7. Ground rules
 - o May have to limit comments – want to make sure everyone has a chance to share
 - o One person talking at a time so we can all follow conversation
 - o Please turn off cell phones
8. Questions?

Facilitator will review slides about SL bupe/bupe in general

Buprenorphine in general

1. What do you **know about bupe services** at (SSP)?
2. What are your **thoughts** about (SSP's) **current buprenorphine services**?
 1. Do you think a harm reduction organization or SSP is an **appropriate place** to offer bupe services?
 2. How **helpful** do you think buprenorphine is for the (SSP) participants who are receiving it?
 3. How do you think buprenorphine services could be **improved**?
3. Do SSP participants **know bupe is available** at (SSP)?
 1. How is this information **conveyed** to them?
4. How do you think **SSP participants usually use** buprenorphine? Are most using it as a daily medication, or using it sporadically to treat withdrawal, or for self-detox?
5. What **gets in the way** of patients starting bupe? Of continuing it?
 1. Why are SSP participants generally **not interested** in buprenorphine?
6. What might make (SSP's) buprenorphine services more **acceptable**?
7. **How comfortable** do you think **staff** are talking about buprenorphine with SSP participants?
8. **How often** does **buprenorphine come up** during your interactions with SSP participants? What does that look like?

Facilitator will review slides about injectable buprenorphine

Injectable buprenorphine

9. Having seen the slides, **what thoughts or questions** do you have about injectable buprenorphine?
10. Are there any **benefits** injectable buprenorphine might have for our patients? Any **downsides**?
11. Thinking about your experiences with participants, **how much interest** do you think there will be in injectable buprenorphine among SSP participants **already receiving buprenorphine**? What about among SSP participants who are **new to bupe**?

- a. In general terms, which participants do you think will be **least interested** in injectable buprenorphine? Why?
 - b. Which participants do you think will be **most interested** in injectable buprenorphine? Why?
- 12. How could we **generate more interest in bupe** in general among SSP participants? **injectable buprenorphine**?
 - 1. Demonstration- empty syringe
 - 2. Handouts
 - 3. Peer messengers
 - 4. Posters
 - 5. Other
- 13. What **information** would SSP participants want before they decide whether or not to receive injectable buprenorphine?
- 14. I'd like to take a minute to review a patient **handout** we've developed. We can read through this together.
 - 1. What, if anything, about this handout do you like?
 - 2. What about this handout don't you like or doesn't make sense?
- 15. What, if anything, would you **personally need to feel more comfortable** talking to SSP participants about **bupe**? What about **injectable buprenorphine**?
 - 1. **When and who** could be giving this information to participants in a more systematic way?
 - 2. How do you **bring it into** a conversation? What **context** or **situation**?
- 16. What would be the **best way to train** (SSP) staff about bupe? injectable buprenorphine?
 - c. What staff?
 - d. Training format?
 - i. Video training vs. in-person
 - ii. Duration
 - iii. Frequency
 - e. What general bupe content would you want to make sure was covered?

Wrap-up

People with opioid use disorder (PWOUD) focus group

Introduction/Welcome

1. *Thank participants for their participation in the focus group*
2. *Describe that this is a single focus group*
3. *The purpose of the focus groups is to learn about people's views of injectable buprenorphine and get recommendations for starting to offer injectable buprenorphine.*
4. *Introduce focus group team*
5. *Will be recording today's focus group; before the recording starts review informed consent documents*
6. *Incentive will be shared at the end of the focus group;*
7. *Ground rules*
 - *May have to limit comments – want to make sure everyone has a chance to share*
 - *One person talking at a time so we can all follow the conversation*
 - *Please be mindful of confidentiality- we ask that what is said in this room stays in this room*
 - *Please turn mobile phones off*
8. *Questions?*

Discussion questions

1. Before we start talking about injectable buprenorphine, I'd like to ask you to briefly (in just a couple sentences) share your own experience with buprenorphine strips or films.
 - a. What were your goals when you started buprenorphine?
 - b. How did you use it? Did you use it to try to stop using opioids? Or for withdrawal when you couldn't find heroin or other opioids?

Start with 5 slides about injectable buprenorphine

2. Having seen the slides, what **thoughts or questions** do you have about injectable buprenorphine?
3. Thinking about injectable buprenorphine:
 - a. Why might some people **choose injectable buprenorphine** instead of buprenorphine strips or films?
 - b. Why might some people **choose buprenorphine strips or films** over injectable buprenorphine?
4. What **concerns** might people who use opioids have about injectable buprenorphine?
 - c. What, if anything, might help **address** those **concerns**? What might make you feel more comfortable getting injectable buprenorphine?
5. If you were **learning** about injectable buprenorphine for the first time...
 - d. What **information** would you want before you decided whether or not to get it?
 - i. **How** would you want to get that information? (i.e. from whom, what format)
 1. Peer messenger
 2. Handouts
 3. Signage
 4. Doctor
 5. Nurse
 6. Other/what else?
6. I'd like to take a minute to review a **handout** we've developed. We can read through this together.
 - e. What, if anything, about this handout do you **like**?

- f. What about this handout **don't you** like or doesn't make sense?
7. (for **PC clinic**): What do you think is the best way to **let patients know** about injectable buprenorphine?
 (for **SSP**): Acknowledging that (SSP) is a harm reduction organization, what is the best way to **let participants know** about buprenorphine services? About injectable buprenorphine?
 - a. Is someone who is actively using going to be put off coming to a place where people are talking about bupe?
8. In thinking about offering injectable buprenorphine, we wonder if people might get **one injection** and never come back. Are there things we could do to **help them come back**?
 - g. Phone calls?
 - h. Text messages?
 - i. Telehealth appointment?
 - j. Visits with a provider?
 - k. Visits with other clinic staff?
 - l. Visits with peer?
9. We've touched on some of this, but injectable buprenorphine has some major differences compared to bupe strips or films. We'd like to ask how you think people would feel about a few things:
 - m. Some people **sell** some of their buprenorphine strips or films to have money for other things, including food and basic things for survival. With an injection, that's not possible.
 - i. do you think this would be a barrier to starting injectable buprenorphine?
 - ii. would this affect someone's choice about injectable buprenorphine vs. buprenorphine strips or films?
 - n. Some people choose to **take more or less** of their medication, depending on how they are feeling. Maybe they save some medication in case they can't get a refill on time. With an injection, that's not possible.
 - i. do you think this would be a barrier to starting injectable buprenorphine?
 - ii. would this affect someone's choice about injectable buprenorphine vs. buprenorphine strips or films?
 - o. Injectable buprenorphine will **block opioid receptors** for the whole time it is in a person's body, meaning it is harder to get high.
 - i. do you think this would be a barrier to starting injectable buprenorphine?
 - ii. would this affect someone's choice about injectable buprenorphine vs. buprenorphine strips or films?
 - iii. If there were an option to receive a lower dose so that someone could still get high sometimes, do you think that would make some people more interested in injectable buprenorphine?
 1. Do you think people would feel comfortable talking to their doctor about that?
10. What suggestions or recommendations do you have for us as we work on offering injectable buprenorphine to people?
11. What did we forget to ask about?

Wrap-up