Montefiore GENERAL GUIDELINES

We will continue to evaluate new patients seeking buprenorphine treatment. Please direct ALL new patient referrals to bupe@montefiore.org or 718-405-8227.

Patients receiving buprenorphine treatment at MMG clinics should be prescribed **at least one month’s worth of buprenorphine medication** at each telemedicine visit (refills can be provided depending on clinical judgement). In general, telemedicine visits for stable patients should occur less frequently than typically.

Urine drug testing should not be required to receive a buprenorphine prescription until we return to in-person visits. Testing is offered at a few select MMG locations.

**Naloxone kits should be prescribed** to pharmacies that are registered to dispense naloxone under a standing order. **Naloxone training** will be provided telephonically. Please direct any questions to naloxone@montefiore.org

For patients with co-morbid alcohol use disorder, we strongly recommend **initiating medication treatment** (i.e. acamprosate, topiramate) and counseling on harm reduction (i.e. access to alcohol stores) to prevent patients from life-threatening alcohol withdrawal during COVID-19.

### TELEMEDICINE BEST PRACTICES

1. Limit in person visits, **convert to telemedicine** if able
2. **Update patient contact** / emergency contact information
3. Choose a **telemedicine platform** and practice with it. Can do audio only or audio/visual (do not have to be HIPAA compliant)
4. **Prescriptions**: Opt for longer prescriptions (30day supply). Consider refills for stable patients.
5. **Urine drug screening**: consider pausing drug screening
6. Provide access to **virtual support groups** + telemental health services
7. Engage in **harm reduction** and overdose prevention counseling, ensure access to naloxone
8. Provide prescription delivery options for patients who are isolated/quarantined/sick or at “high-risk” for complication
9. **Schedule follow-up** – less often for stable patients
10. Ensure **documentation** supports telemedicine billing

### REGULATION RESOURCES

**Buprenorphine**

OTP and DATA waivered providers can treat NEW and EXISTING patients with OUD with BUPRENORPHINE via telemedicine (including TELEPHONE CALLS) without requiring an in-person exam.

**Methadone**

New patients to methadone treatment do require a face-to-face exam. Many SAMHSA blanket waivers to promote additional take-home bottles during COVID-19.

### HIPAA

**HIPAA violations waived** for providers serving patients with non-HIPAA compliant platforms when used in good faith. Includes FaceTime, Skype, Zoom, etc.

### RESOURCES FOR PATIENTS

**General Guidance**

Montefiore Bupe Treatment Tip Sheet during COVID-19
COVID-19 Guidance for PWUD from NYC DoH
Yale Program in Addiction Medicine COVID-19 Guidance for Patients

**Online/Virtual Support and Recovery Support Apps**

SAMHSA Online Support Group Resources
Recovery Support Apps – ASAM COVID-19 Resources

**Harm Reduction**

Harm Reduction Coalition Safer Drug Use COVID-19
http://neverusealone.com
(800) 484-3731

**Sexual Health**

COVID-19 and Sex Guidance from NYC DoH

### PHARMACY DELIVERY – Buprenorphine

**Capsule Pharmacy** – deliver all over NYC, accept all major insurances (except straight Medicaid)

**Boom Pharmacy** - 226 E. 144th St. Bronx, NY 10451 - 718-292-0900, deliveries to Bronx, Manhattan, Yonkers