



# INLAND COUNTIES EMERGENCY MEDICAL AGENCY POLICY AND PROTOCOL MANUAL

**Reference No. 10050**  
Effective Date: 01/01/24  
Supersedes: N/A  
Page 1 of 2

## OPIOID WITHDRAWAL

### I. FIELD ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT INDICATORS

- Patient exhibiting signs/symptoms of possible opioid withdrawal characterized by tachycardia, gastrointestinal distress, hot and cold flashes, poor concentration, diaphoresis, rhinorrhea, restlessness, piloerection, and/or yawning.

### II. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Under 18 years of age
- Pregnant
- Any methadone use
- Altered mental status and unable to give consent
- Severe medical illness (sepsis, respiratory distress, etc.)
- Recent benzodiazepine, alcohol, or intoxicants suspected
- Unable to comprehend potential risks and benefits for any reason
- Not a candidate for buprenorphine maintenance treatment for any reason

### III. BLS INTERVENTIONS

- Oxygen therapy as clinically indicated.
- If patient exhibiting signs/symptoms of possible altered level of consciousness refer to ICEMA Reference #14060-Altered Level of Consciousness/Seizure-Adult
- Assess and document response to therapy.

### IV. LIMITED ALS (LALS) INTERVENTIONS

- Perform activities identified in the BLS interventions.
- Obtain vascular access.

### V. ALS INTERVENTIONS

- Perform activities identified in the BLS and LALS interventions.
- Place on cardiac monitor and obtain a 12-lead ECG.
- Use Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale (COWS) assessment tool to determine if patient meets criteria for treatment (>7).
- Provide counseling and assess patient interest in buprenorphine.
- If agreeable, contact designated Base Hospital to request administration of buprenorphine.

- With physician approval, administer buprenorphine per ICEMA Reference #11010 – Medication – Standard Orders. (16 mg buprenorphine SL).
- Reassess patient after 10 minutes.
- If symptoms worsen or persist, re-dose buprenorphine per ICEMA Reference #11010 – Medication – Standard Orders (8 mg buprenorphine SL to max dose 24 mg).
- Transport to Opioid Receiving Center and inform patient that the hospital navigator will initiate contact within 72 hours to offer additional treatment.
- If patient declines transport, provide MAT information, coaching, and brochure.
- Provide Leave Behind Naloxone kit and education if available.

#### V. REFERENCES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
11010	Medication - Standard Order
14060	Altered Level of Consciousness/Seizures-Adult