IOWA POISON CONTROL CENTER

Poison HOTLINE

1-800-222-1222

September 2026

Iowa Poison Control Center is pleased to offer Iowa Buprenorphine Education, Access, and Consultation Network (I-BEACON), a statewide initiative.

WHAT IS I-BEACON?
I-BEACON is a statewide initiative designed to expand access to medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) by providing Iowa healthcare providers with real-time expert clinical consultation on the initiation, dosing, and follow-up of buprenorphine.

HOW TO ACCESS I-BEACON
Have a patient who may benefit from buprenorphine? Call the Iowa Poison Control Center's I-BEACON hotline (1-800-222-1222) anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, for real-time provider-to-provider consultation on initiation, dosing, and follow-up care. There is no cost to Iowa healthcare providers.



WHO CAN CALL?
I-BEACON is designed for emergency physicians, hospitalists, primary care clinicians, urgent care providers, nurse practitioners, and physician assistants. You do not need to be an addiction specialist to call. If you are caring for a patient who may benefit from buprenorphine, I-BEACON is here for you.

KEY POINTS ABOUT BUPRENORPHINE

- Among patients who survived an opioid overdose, those treated with buprenorphine had a 40% lower risk of opioid-related death over the following year compared with those who received no medication.
- In a randomized trial, 78% of patients started on buprenorphine in the emergency department were engaged in addiction treatment 30 days later, compared with 45% who received a brief intervention plus facilitated referral.
- Self-reported illicit opioid use fell from 5.4 days per week to 0.9 days per week in the buprenorphine group.

NATIONAL CLINICAL GUIDANCE
The American College of Emergency Physicians (ACEP) and the American College of Medical Toxicology (ACMT) recommend that emergency physicians offer to initiate buprenorphine in appropriate patients and provide direct linkage to ongoing treatment. I-BEACON makes this practical in every Iowa emergency department, at every hour. For more information, go to https://www.iowapoison.org/health-care-providers/i-beacon.

FOR MOUD PROVIDERS:
I-BEACON is expanding its network of buprenorphine providers across Iowa. If your practice provides ongoing care for patients on medication for opioid use disorder, we'd like to include you in our referral database. Ensuring patients can access quality treatment close to home helps them stay engaged in recovery. To add your practice, complete this form: https://www.iowapoison.org/health-care-providers/i-beacon/follow-up-treatment-provider.

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