



Practice Alert: Inpatient Pharmacist Workflow for Buprenorphine ER Injection (Brixadi) Pilot Program Implementation November 25, 2025

BLUF

Implementation of a standardized pharmacist workflow to support safe and REMS-compliant inpatient use of subcutaneous buprenorphine ER (Brixadi) under the CareOregon-funded pilot program.

Situation

Brixadi is non-formulary for inpatient use. However, a pilot program funded by CareOregon and overseen by addiction specialist, Dr. Casey Ferguson will allow select inpatients with opioid use disorder (OUD) to receive Brixadi. This initiative aims to evaluate the financial impact, scope, and clinical benefit of inpatient Brixadi administration for eligible patients.

Background

- Brixadi is an FDA-approved treatment for opioid use disorder. It is a partial opioid agonist formulated into a long-acting subcutaneous injection to reduce opioid cravings and withdrawal symptoms.
- The potential advantages and disadvantages of Brixadi are listed below:

Advantages	Disadvantages
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Improved adherence (no daily dosing)• Flexibility of dosing frequency (weekly vs monthly dosing)• Reduced diversion/misuse• Less fluctuations in plasma levels• Potential ease for transitions of care (inpt to outpt OUD management)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• REMS Drug• Expensive, with variable insurance coverage and payor systems/prior authorization processes still in development• Must be administered by healthcare professional• Dosing inflexibility once administered

- Brixadi was reviewed by the P&T Committee in Fall 2024 and approved only for outpatient, PES, and ESUDS settings. LEMC will launch a pilot program funded by CareOregon which allows inpatient administration to eligible patients identified by Dr. Ferguson.

Assessment

- We will establish standard workflows for pharmacists during this pilot program, including order verification process, dispensing process, and communications to maintain program objectives.
- For the LEMC Brixadi Pilot Program, we will stock the following doses/formulations (doses and quantities subject to change):

Weekly Formulations	Monthly Formulation
24 mg (3 doses)	128 mg (1 dose)
32 mg (3 doses)	

Recommendation

1. Staff will complete the Brixadi REMS SLM in E+ which includes the standard operating procedures for ordering, verifying, dispensing, and administering Brixadi to inpatients for this pilot program.
2. Upon receiving a Brixadi order in Epic, verify that the medication is appropriate for indication and dose under the pilot program.
3. Change the dispense code to "Patient Own Med" in the verification queue to prevent charge generation.
4. Dispense the Brixadi dose to a licensed healthcare provider (nurse or provider) or to the Omnicell Patient-Specific Controlled Bin. Never dispense directly to the patient.
5. Direct any clinical questions to Dr. Casey Ferguson.
6. Direct any operational questions to Kyle Kojiro.