

# 1

## Assess the need for treatment

For persons diagnosed with an opioid use disorder, first determine the severity of patient's substance use disorder. Then identify any underlying or co-occurring diseases or conditions, the effect of opioid use on the patient's physical and psychological functioning, and the outcomes of past treatment episodes.

Your assessment should include:

- A patient history
- Ensure that the assessment includes a medical and psychiatric history, a substance use history, and an evaluation of family and psychosocial supports.
- Access the patient's prescription drug use history through the state's Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP), where available, to detect unreported use of other medications, such as sedative-hypnotics or alcohol, that may interact adversely with the treatment medications.
- A physical examination that focuses on physical findings related to addiction and its complications.
- Laboratory testing to assess recent opioid use and to screen for use of other drugs. Useful tests include a urine drug screen or other toxicology screen, urine test for alcohol (ethyl glucuronide), liver enzymes, serum bilirubin, serum creatinine, as well as tests for hepatitis B and C and HIV. Treatment should not be delayed awaiting lab results.

# 2

**Educate the patient about how the medication works and the associated risks and benefits; obtain informed consent; and educate on overdose prevention.**

There is potential for relapse & overdose on discontinuation of the medication. Patients should be educated about the effects of using opioids and other drugs while taking the prescribed medication and the potential for overdose if opioid use is resumed after tolerance is lost.

# 3

## Evaluate the need for medically managed withdrawal from opioids

Those starting Buprenorphine must be in a state of withdrawal.

# 4

## Address co-occurring disorders

Have an integrated treatment approach to meet the substance use, medical and mental health, and social needs of a patient.

# 5

## Integrate pharmacologic and nonpharmacologic therapies

All medications for the treatment of the opioid use disorder should be prescribed as part of a comprehensive individualized treatment plan that may include counseling and other psychosocial therapies, as well as social support through participation in mutual-help programs. Treatment should not be withheld in the absence of psychosocial counseling.

# 6

**Refer patients for higher levels of care, if necessary**

# BUPRENORPHINE

# QUICK START Pocket Guide

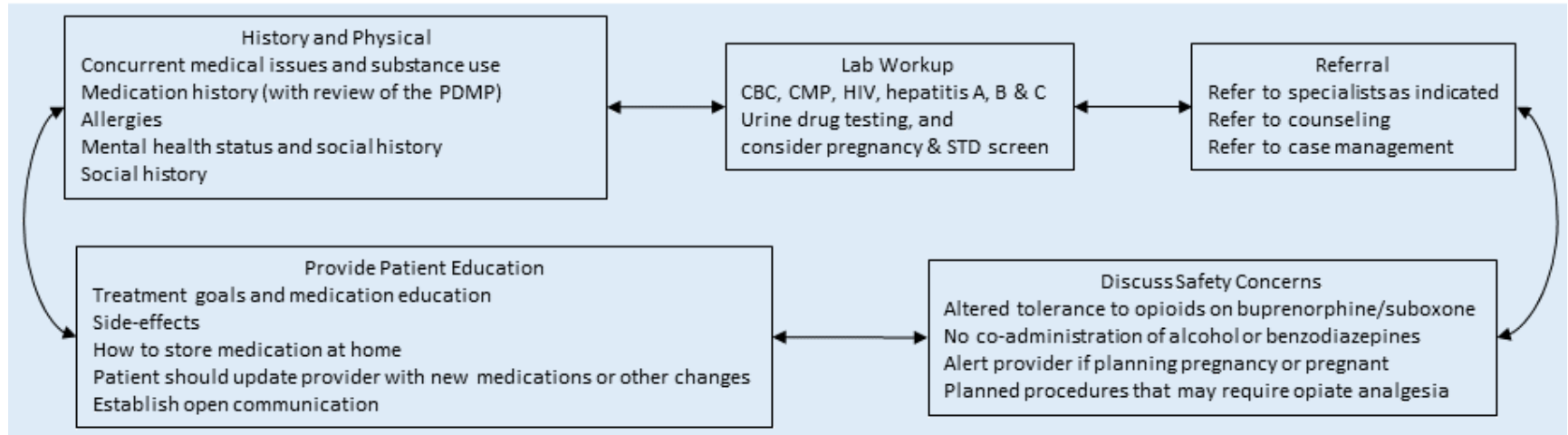


# **SAMHSA**

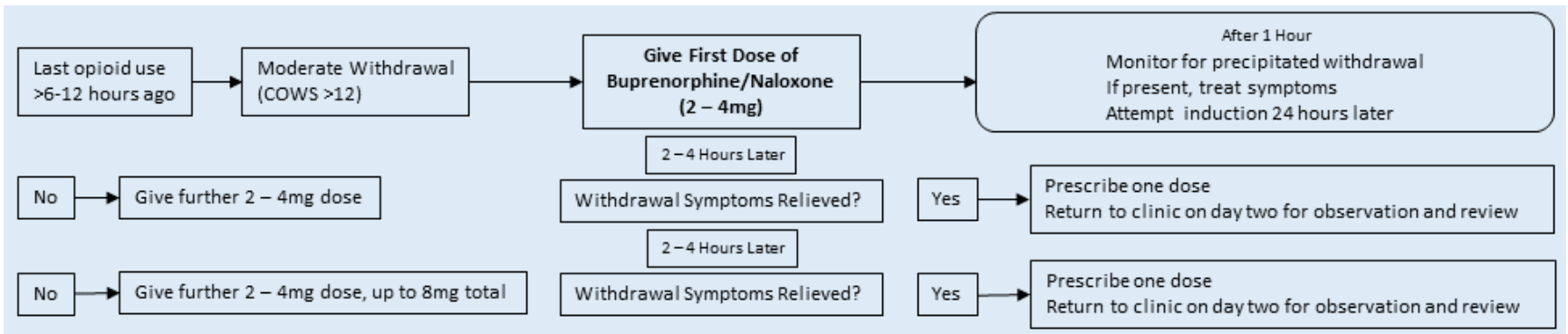
Substance Abuse and Mental Health  
Services Administration

# Buprenorphine Quick Start Guide for In Office Induction

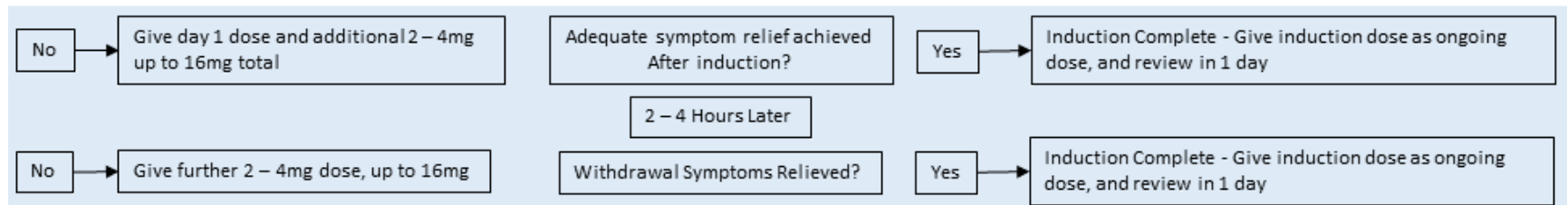
## INITIAL ASSESSMENT



## DAY ONE (INDUCTION)



## DAY TWO



## MAINTENANCE

