

To: All AMR Contra Costa County Field Personnel

From: Brandon Niven, Interim Clinical Education Specialist

Date: August 3, 2020

**Re: Buprenorphine Trial Study**

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As some of you may already be aware, AMR Contra Costa County will be participating in an 18-month trial study of the administration of buprenorphine in the prehospital setting. This is a unique opportunity to take part in and help shape the future of care for opioid-addicted patients encountered by EMS who are suffering from opioid withdrawal, and is only the second such trial in the nation surrounding the administration of buprenorphine in the prehospital setting.

East Contra Costa County has been identified as the division with the most opioid-related patient encounters, and as such the trial study will be taking place in east county. With the launch of the trial study expected to take place in mid-September, full-time paramedics permanently assigned to work on an east county unit will be required to attend one of the upcoming Buprenorphine Trial Study trainings listed below. These trainings have been added in TeleStaff, and you will need to self-assign to one of the following dates:

Thursday, August 20, 2020, from 0900-1300 hours at Concord Operations  
Friday, August 21, 2020, from 0900-1300 hours at Concord Operations  
Tuesday, August 25, 2020, from 0900-1300 hours at Concord Operations  
Tuesday, August 25, 2020, from 1400-1800 hours at Concord Operations

Q: I am a full-time paramedic, but I don't work in east county, can I still participate?

A: At this time, the trial study will be limited to full-time paramedics permanently assigned to work on an east county unit.

Q: What if I bid onto an east county unit after the trial study begins?

A: If you are a full-time paramedic, and bid onto an east county unit, you will be required to complete the Buprenorphine Trial Study training ahead of working on your new unit.

Q: I don't work on an east county unit, but what if I end up running a call in east county for opioid withdrawal? Will I have to follow the trial study protocols since the call is in east county?

A: No, only full-time paramedics permanently assigned to work on an east county unit will be authorized to carry buprenorphine and be required to follow the trial study protocols.

If you have any questions or require further clarification, please contact your division supervisor or CES.