A randomized trial of effectiveness and cost effectiveness of supervised versus unsupervised administration of buprenorphine-naloxone for heroin dependence

Chief Investigator Name: James Bell

Start Year: 2003

Other Investigators: Marian Shanahan, Carolyn Mutch, Anni Ryan, Felicity Rea, Robert Batey, Adrian Dunlop, Adam Winstock

End Year: 2006

Admin Institution: The Langton Centre

Total funding: $48,000

Priority area: Other Issues

Grant Type: Research Grant

Lay description
To compare the effectiveness and cost-effectiveness of combination buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) in the treatment of heroin dependence under two conditions – supervised and unsupervised administration.

Research achievements
1. Retention and heroin use was not significantly different between observed and unobserved dosing groups.
2. Attendance for observed dosing was not associated with worse retention.
3. Treatment with close clinical monitoring, but no observation of dosing, was significantly cheaper and therefore significantly more cost-effective.

Expected future outcomes
Nil

Publications & Key Presentations
5. Shanahan, M. 2006 APSAD Conference. The cost of supervised versus unsupervised administration of buprenorphine naloxone for heroin dependence: results from an RCT.

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