



**PUBLIC SAFETY GROUP  
SAN DIEGO COUNTY FIRE**

**SAN DIEGO COUNTY EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES OFFICE**  
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**COUNTY OF SAN DIEGO PREHOSPITAL BUPRENORPHINE (SUBOXONE®) PILOT PROGRAM  
EXPANSION**

As part of our overall strategy to reduce suffering and deaths from the opioid epidemic, the County of San Diego Emergency Medical Services (CoSD EMS) initiated a [Prehospital Buprenorphine \(Suboxone®\) Pilot Program \(Bup Program\)](#) in [September 2023](#). We are pleased to announce the expansion of this program.

At the July 15, 2025 EMS Medical Director's Advisory Committee meeting, Dr. Gene Hern delivered a compelling lecture emphasizing the clinical value of buprenorphine administration in the prehospital setting. Specifically, Dr. Hern noted:

- 10% of people resuscitated from an opioid overdose die within one year without treatment; and
- Suboxone® treatment implementation is associated with two-thirds reduction in mortality

Following Dr. Hern's presentation, we conducted a survey of meeting participants that revealed strong local support for a Bup Program in San Diego County:

- **71% of respondents** affirmed there *should* be a prehospital buprenorphine program
- **48% of respondents** indicated their organization would be interested in participating

Effective immediately, we invite interested EMS agencies to contact Tyler Meick ([tyler.meick@sdcounty.ca.gov](mailto:tyler.meick@sdcounty.ca.gov)) at CoSD EMS for information about how to participate in the Bup Program.

Thank you for your commitment to advancing EMS practice and patient care in our community. We look forward to partnering with you on this important pilot program.

Sincerely,

Kristi L. Koenig, MD, FACEP, FIFEM, FAEMS, Medical Director  
San Diego County Emergency Medical Services Office  
San Diego County Fire

cc: Andrew Parr, EMS Administrator  
Jeff Collins, Director