

*Blending Addiction Science & Practice:  
Bridges to the Future*

Understanding and Utilizing Buprenorphine  
in the Treatment of Opioid Addiction

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# Agenda

- Introduction
- History of Opiates
- Neurobiology
- Prevalence of Opioid Use
- Buprenorphine
  - Medically-Assisted Withdrawal, Maintenance
  - Use in Special Populations
- Implementation of Buprenorphine in Clinical Settings
- Panel Discussion
  - The Role of the Counselor

# Buprenorphine-Related Patient Management Issues

- Discuss the benefits of maintenance treatment
- Evaluate the readiness to taper medication
- Explain issues in evaluating the discontinuation of buprenorphine treatment
- Identify the components of a healthy counselor-physician partnership

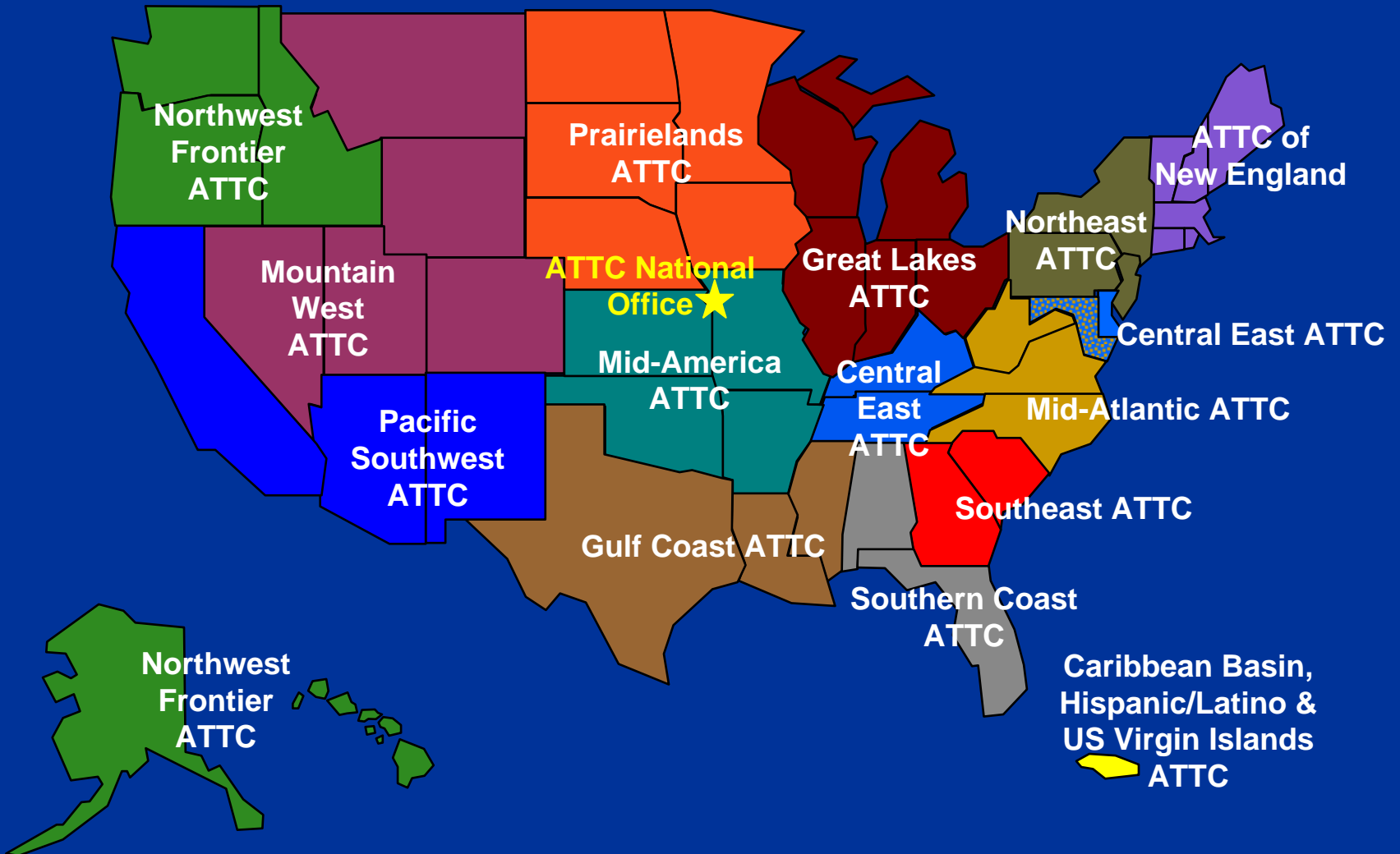
# Challenges for Addiction Treatment Professionals

- Not all physicians who are trained have consented to be listed on Physician locator.  
Community outreach is still critical.
- Linking patients to primary care who have not been within the medical mainstream
- Coordination with other professionals not accustomed to working with non-medical partners
- Covering the cost of medication

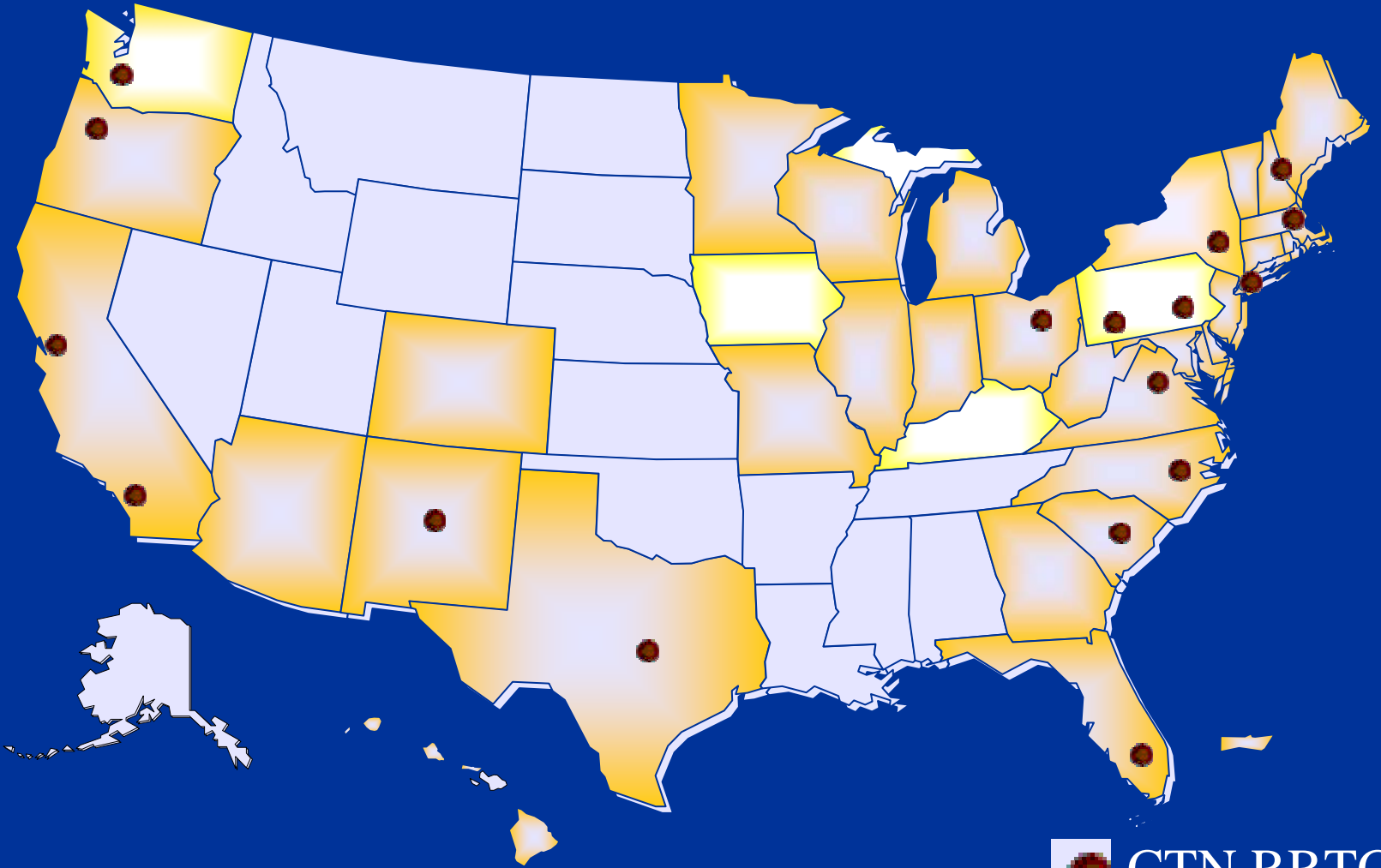
# NIDA/SAMHSA Blending Initiative

- Developed in 2001 by NIDA and SAMHSA/CSAT, the initiative was designed to **meld science and practice** together to improve drug abuse and addiction treatment.
- "Blending Teams," include staff from CSAT's ATTCs and NIDA researchers who develop methods for **dissemination of research results for adoption and implementation** into practice.
- With the skills, resources, and knowledge of these two Federal agencies, important **scientific findings are able to reach the frontline service providers** treating people with substance use disorders. This is imperative to the success of drug abuse treatment programs throughout the country.

# The ATTC Network



# CTN Nodes



 CTN RRTC

 States with CTP