The Indian Psychiatric Society:

- **Recognizes** that Opioid Dependence is a significant public health challenge in India, as reported by the Government of India in its recent report – Magnitude of Substance Use in India.  
- **Realizes** that Opioid Dependence is a chronic, relapsing disorder which requires a long-term treatment.  
- **Agrees** with World Health Organization (WHO), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), International Narcotics Control Board (INCB) and many other International and National agencies which have recommended long-term treatment with opioid agonists like Buprenorphine as the most effective treatment option including for patients in a developing country like India.  
- **Recognizes** that Buprenorphine is a controlled medication under the United Nations Drug control conventions as well as under the Indian Narcotic Drugs & Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act. In addition, this medicine has been placed in the Essential Medicine List by the WHO.  
- **Agrees** that all possible steps must be taken to minimize the diversion and misuse of this medication while ensuring that it remains accessible to affected patients in India.  
- **Expresses** concern that as per the recent data, there are lakhs of patients of opioid dependence in India who do not have access to evidence-based, effective, safe and affordable treatment, major reason for which is the restrictive legal and policy environment.  
- **Welcomes** the recommendation made by the Subject Expert Committee (SEC) of Central Drug Standards Control Organization (CDSCO), Ministry of Health and Family Welfare (MoH&FW), Government of India dated 8 August 2018 that buprenorphine ‘should be allowed to be supplied to psychiatric hospitals, clinics instead of the earlier condition that drug should be supplied to de-addiction centers only’.  
- **Assures** that IPS will encourage, guide and facilitate its members and other treatment providers in India to provide evidence based treatment, with procedures fully compliant with the laws and policies, through various means including through educational / professional developmental activities as well as through tools like practice guidelines, treatment guidelines and standard procedures.

**IPS/Position Statement-3/25.09.2019**

**Position Statement on Use of Buprenorphine for treatment for Opioid Dependence**

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