

Ketamine Interest Group

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, June 18th, 2020 @ 2:00pm ET

Co-Chairs: Mark Niciu (Iowa), Adam Kaplin (JHMI)
Attendees: Susan Conroy (Indiana), Bill Coryell (Iowa), Robert Meisner (McLean), Christopher Schneck (CUAnschutz), Benjamin Yudkoff (BWH)
NNDC: Diana Burnett

1. Site survey

Add two questions, one after each section (ketamine and esketamine): “What percent of your patients are self-pay?”

2. SPRAVATO REMS notice based on FDA COVID-19 communication (see attached)

- a. Restriction regarding the patient be in the hospital has been lifted; that is, the patient may now be dosed at home.
- b. Difficulty is that the FDA will likely reverse this policy once the COVID-19 situation is stable.
- c. Two-hour monitoring must be completed, which is not feasible for most. Homebound patients may benefit?
- d. Staff time and reimbursement will be complex.
- e. Home nursing and video prescribing to start therapy?
- f. A second wave of COVID-19 and a lockdown without access to treatment would be detrimental.

3. Grants

- a. Substance use disorder in ketamine – suggested
- b. Roland Griffiths (JHU) – the “psilocybin guru” – Talking with him to use his setting and sequence to see if they can get the same experiences with patients taking esketamine as he does with his studies using psilocybin. Involves two to three 4-hr sessions.
- c. Anecdotal consensus is that patients on esketamine, who are open to the transcendental effects, tend to tolerate the treatment better than others. A randomized study would be interesting, as would use of a consistent side-effect rating scale.

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 16th, 2020 @ 2pm ET