



Buprenorphine/naloxone (bupe/nal) (Suboxone, Sublocade, Zubsolv, generic etc.)

You are beginning treatment with Suboxone, a combination of an opioid, buprenorphine, and a blocking agent, naloxone. Buprenorphine is the main ingredient. Naloxone has no effect unless the tablets or films are crushed and injected into a vein and is included to reduce misuse of the medication.

Important things to keep in mind:

1. While you are taking Suboxone, other opioids such as Vicodin, Percocet, Morphine, Oxycontin, Methadone or Heroin will not work because Suboxone blocks the receptor. If you require emergency surgery or emergency pain relief, be sure to tell the doctors that you are taking Suboxone. Because of this we strongly recommend that you carry a card in your wallet that documents you are taking Suboxone, and the dose you are taking. For elective surgery, you will need to stop taking Suboxone 3 days before surgery. Talk to your doctor about managing pain control before and after surgery, and when you can start taking Suboxone again.
2. Do not take any sedatives or sleeping pills while taking Suboxone unless they are prescribed by the same doctor. Abuse of sedatives, especially Klonopin, Xanax, Valium or Ativan may be dangerous while you are taking Suboxone, and deaths have been reported in people who took large doses.
3. Suboxone is a controlled substance, and people who are not used to it can overdose on it. Keep your medication in a safe place, preferable a locked cabinet or safe. You are responsible for your medication, and lost, stolen or destroyed medication will not be replaced. Any attempt to sell or give your Suboxone to anyone else is illegal and will result in immediate termination of care.
4. Any controlled Substances need to either be prescribed by our clinic or approved by us before they are prescribed. Failure to comply with this may result in termination of your Suboxone agreement.
5. You will be asked for routine, random urine drug screens and you agree to cooperate with them. There may be times when you will be asked to come to the clinic for a drug screen on days when you do not have an appointment. Specimens that are too dilute, adulterated, or refused may result in changes to your treatment, including discontinuation of Suboxone.
6. If possible, get prescription refills at the time of your appointments. If there is a need for a telephone refill, we require at least 5 business days notice.
7. Be sure to let the film(s) or tablet(s) dissolve completely under your tongue. Do not drink or eat anything until they are completely dissolved. Suboxone doesn't work if it is swallowed.
8. Check around at different pharmacies for the best price.
9. Follow up visits will occur as discussed. Generally we will see you back in 1 week after starting Suboxone. If all is well we will see you back every 2 weeks for 2 months. After that, if you are continuing to do well, we will see you monthly for 1 year. After 1 year frequency of ongoing follow up will be adjusted accordingly. If at any time, you have a recurrence of Opioid use, we will reset the clock and begin seeing you every 2 weeks or even more frequently to provide you with more support.
10. I have read and understand the above information. My questions have been answered by Dr. Sawyer. I agree to abide by the regulations and guidelines.

Name (Please print) : _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____