

COVID-19: AHS Buprenorphine/Naloxone (Suboxone) Home Induction Method

1. Home initiation protocol for Suboxone for Opioid Use Disorder:

- For illicit fentanyl, ideal time from last use would be >24 hours, but at minimum 12 hours and moderate to severe withdrawal.
- Can use a COWS (clinical opioid withdrawal scale score >13) or SOWS (subjective opioid withdrawal scale score > 16) as necessary, depending if the initiation is provided virtually with physician/NP.
- The protocol is a slow initiation, combining microinduction and traditional inductions.
- To reduce the risk of precipitated withdrawal, suggest initiation of SROM* (slow release oral morphine, Kadian) for 3 days before start of Suboxone home initiation.

2. Protocol for Suboxone Home Induction:

- Day 0: Stop all opioids and provide withdrawal medications including clonidine 0.1 MG TID for 1-3 days, gabapentin 300mg TID for 1-3 days, and if necessary clonazepam 0.5mg BID for 1-3 days. If using SROM protocol, take as usual, replace SROM with Suboxone on Day 1 after appropriate withdrawal.
- Day 1: Once appropriate withdrawal is reached, initiate 2mg SL q1hour Suboxone, as needed for persistent or reoccurring withdrawal symptoms up to 16mg. Hold if sedation.
- Day 2: Total of Day 1 (eg. 16mg) then 2mg SL q1hour for persistent or reoccurring withdrawal symptoms, up to 32mg total. Hold if sedation. Call Patient to review final dose, provide Rx for 1week, follow up in 1 week, then 28 days prescriptions if appropriate.

3. For Precipitated Withdrawal:

- Wait 3-4 hours and try again
- Support with Withdrawal medications including clonidine 0.1 MG, gabapentin 300mg, and clonazepam 0.5mg
- Restart the Home Induction

4. SROM protocol for those who are unable to abstain from illicit fentanyl for 24 hours or more*:

- Day 1: 200mg QD
- Day 2 and 3*: Titrate as necessary.

* Day 3 = Day 0 of Home Suboxone Initiation Protocol. Take SROM as usual, replace SROM with suboxone on Day 1 after appropriate withdrawal (24-36

hours after previous day's SROM dose or 24 hours after Morphine SR and 12 hours after Morphine IR).

5. Suboxone Initiation:

- Day 0: Take SROM as usual, replace SROM with suboxone on Day 1 after appropriate withdrawal (24-36 hours after previous day's SROM dose or 24 hours after Morphine SR and 12 hours after Morphine IR).
- Day 1: After appropriate withdrawal (24-36 hours after last SROM dose) initiate 2mg SL q 1 hour Suboxone as needed for persistent or reoccurring withdrawal symptoms up to 16mg. Hold if Sedation.
- Day 2: Total of Day 1 (16mg) and 2mg SL q 1 hour for persistent or reoccurring withdrawal symptoms up to 32mg total.

* For SROM shortage can use Morphine SR (slow release). On Day 0, Morphine SR in the morning and replace second dose with immediate release (IR) morphine. Start initiation on Day 1 12 hours after last IR dose and 24 hours after last SR dose.

*For Microinduction protocols please see Canadian Journal of Addiction publication:

https://journals.lww.com/cja/Fulltext/2019/12000/A_Review_of_Novel_Methods_To_Support_The.7.aspx?WT.mc_id=HPxADx20100319xMP

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AHS Suboxone[®] Home Induction Method OUD- Day1

Dissolve Suboxone *2 mg under tongue when in moderate to severe withdrawal or COWS >12 or SOWS >17. Monitor withdrawal symptoms

After 1 hour I feel better or the same → if continued symptoms of withdrawal.

Take Suboxone 2 mg every 1 hour if needed to a maximum of 16 mg. This will take 8 hours and you will continue to feel better as you keep going. If you feel sedated, stop.

'Take 1 tab every hour until your feel better or reach 16mg.'

I feel worse → withdrawal symptoms intensified

Wait 3-4 hours

Take Suboxone 2 mg and wait 1 hour

I feel better → withdrawal improving

I feel worse → withdrawal intensified

Day 0: Day before starting Suboxone. Stop all opioids, withdrawal medications including clonidine 0.1 MG TID for 1-3 days, gabapentin 300mg TID for 1-3 days, and clonazepam 0.5mg BID for 1-3 days. For SROM protocol, take SROM as usual, replace SROM with suboxone on Day 1 after appropriate withdrawal (24-36 hours after previous day's SROM dose or 24 hours after Morphine SR and 12 hours after Morphine IR).

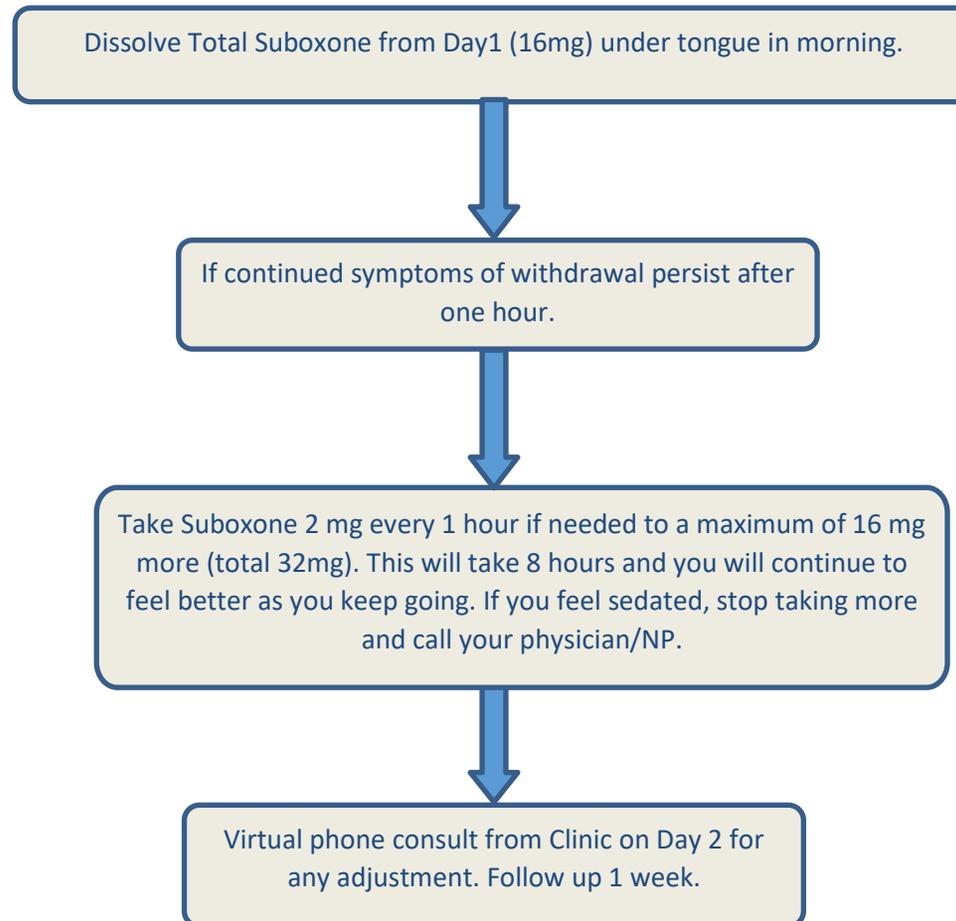
Day 1: After appropriate withdrawal initiate Suboxone 2mg SL every hour, until you feel good, up to 16mg or 8 hours. Stop if you feel sedated.

Day 2: Total of Day 1 (16mg) and 2mg SL every hour for 8 more hours, up to 32mg total. Stop if you feel sedated.

Important: DO NOT chew or swallow Suboxone tablets. Must be completely dissolved under the tongue, may take 10-30 minutes. Do not eat or drink during that time. Medication not effective if swallowed. *2mg = 1 tablet.

SROM = Slow Release Oral Morphine (Kadian)

AHS Suboxone[®] Home Induction Method OUD - Day 2



Important: DO NOT chew or swallow Suboxone tablets. Must be completely dissolved under the tongue, may take 10-30 minutes. Do not eat or drink during that time. Medication not effective if swallowed. *2mg = 1 tablet.