

BUPRENORPHINE TRIAGE PROTOCOL

Definition

- A partial agonist opioid medication for treatment of opioid addiction
- Comes in tablet form and films
- Taken sublingually

Brand Names

- Bunavail® (buprenorphine and naloxone) buccal film
- Suboxone® (buprenorphine and naloxone) film
- Zubsolv® (buprenorphine and naloxone) sublingual tablets
- Buprenorphine-containing Transmucosal products for opioid dependency

Side Effects of Buprenorphine

Buprenorphine's side effects are similar to those of opioids and can include:

- Constipation
- Sleepiness
- Urinary Retention

TRIAGE ASSESSMENT QUESTIONS

- +/- Sexual Dysfunction

Call EMS 911 Now

- Overdose Suspected
 - Last use of opioid, alcohol, benzodiazepine or any other substance
 - R/O opioid overdose
 - *Face is extremely pale and/or feels clammy to the touch*
 - *Body goes limp*
 - *Fingernails or lips have a purple or blue color*
 - *Vomiting or making gurgling noises*
 - *Cannot be awakened or are unable to speak*
 - *Breathing or heartbeat slows or stop*

**If suspect overdose, administer Narcan (if available) and call 911*

- R/O Anaphylaxis
- Sounds like a life-threatening emergency to the triager



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See More Appropriate Protocol

- Urinary Retention - Go to Protocol: Urination Pain (Female)/(Male)
- Pain or crying during the passage of stool OR unable to pass stool after straining or pushing longer than 10 minutes OR 3 or more days without stool – Go to Protocol: Constipation

Go to ED Now (or to office with PCP approval)

- Symptoms are severe but not life threatening and cause cannot be determined without further assessment

Contact buprenorphine prescriber

- R/O opioid withdrawal due to dosing
 - Withdrawal symptoms may be present due to buprenorphine wearing off too soon
 - Withdrawal Symptoms Include:
 - *Nausea, vomiting*
 - *Muscle aches and cramps*
 - *Cravings*
 - *Inability to sleep*
 - *Distress and irritability*
 - *Chills, "goosebumps"*

See Within 1-3 Days in Office

- All patients who call with issues related to buprenorphine should be seen in office within 3 days
- Caller wants to be child seen

Home Care

- None: All patients who call with issues related to buprenorphine should be seen in office within 3 days

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- All patients who are prescribed buprenorphine have an Opioid Use Disorder
- Patients who are induced on buprenorphine must be in withdrawal; medication treats those symptoms
- Sudden stopping of medication will lead to withdrawal

- For any changes to medication or prescription questions, please call buprenorphine provider

Disclaimer: The Buprenorphine Triage Protocol Tip Sheet is offered for information purposes only and is not meant as a substitute for independent medical judgment or the advice of a qualified physician or healthcare professional. The Buprenorphine Triage Protocol Tip Sheet is not intended to provide medical advice or clinical services to patients, to verify or approve medical information or credentials, or to make any medical referrals. The Buprenorphine Triage Protocol Tip Sheet does not provide professional or medical advice or recommend any particular medical device or service, including recommendations or endorsements through the Buprenorphine Triage Protocol Tip Sheet Users who choose to use information or recommendations made available by the Buprenorphine Triage Protocol Tip Sheet do so at their own risk and should not rely on that information as professional medical advice or use it to replace any relationship with their physicians or other qualified healthcare professionals.



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