



Buprenorphine/Naloxone (Suboxone) Pharmacist Quick Reference Sheet

B-Team Program	The Buprenorphine Team (B-Team) offers patients with opioid use disorder (OUD) the opportunity to be started on buprenorphine/naloxone medication assisted treatment (MAT) while hospitalized. MAT is proven to decrease a patient's dependency on opioids while increasing self-efficacy and overall quality of life during and after treatment. Primary teams are encouraged to TigerText the Buprenorphine Team about any patient who may be a candidate for MAT. The B-Team will partner with Dove Springs Clinic for continuity of care after the patient is discharged.
Indication	Medication Assisted Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder, opioid withdrawal, pain
Mechanism	Buprenorphine – high affinity, partial opioid agonist; Naloxone – opioid antagonist (prevents IV abuse, not significantly absorbed orally)
Dose	See algorithm. Based on presence of withdrawal symptoms and timing of last use of opioids, patients will be placed on protocol driven by either COWS (Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale) or cravings.
Dose adjustments	Renal: None. Hepatic: moderate impairment – use caution; severe impairment – avoid use
Adverse effects	Mild risk for over-sedation, potential to induce withdrawal, hepatic injury (rare)
Drug interactions	CYP 3A4 substrate – caution with inducers and inhibitors; additive effects with co-administration of other CNS/respiratory depressing agents
Ordering prescribers	Ideally, B-Team providers will order inpatient, but any provider can order under current regulations. Outpatient prescriptions must be prescribed by prescribers who have received an x-waiver certification from the DEA.
Administration	Buprenorphine/naloxone is administered sublingually. Place one film under the tongue, close to the base of tongue on the left or right side. If an additional film is necessary (based on COWS or 'opioid cravings'), place an additional film sublingually on the opposite side from the first film. Place the film in a manner to minimize overlapping as much as possible. The film must be kept under the tongue until completely dissolved. Moistening the mouth with water prior to administration may help absorption. Patients should not eat or drink immediately after administration (~10 minutes).
Monitoring	COWS or 'opioid cravings,' LFTs (performed prior to start of induction), urine drug screens (frequency/need determined by MD)
Documentation	RN to document COWS in MAR comment and on paper COWS form
Floor PharmD action	1) Ensure SCOP has adequate supply for outpatient prescription until follow-up appointment; 2) counseling

The B-Team is an interdisciplinary group that includes physicians, advanced practice providers, nurses, social workers, case managers, and pharmacists. **To refer a patient**, TigerText the "Buprenorphine Team". For **questions about the B-Team Program**, please contact Rich Bottner via TigerText or rbottner@ascension.org.