

SUBOXONE ADMINISTRATION



December 2025

Patch

Call OMC for BHP consultation prior to administration.

- ✓ Confirm eligibility and safety
- ✓ Prevent precipitated withdrawal

COWS

Assess and document Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS).

- ✓ Record COWS before first dose
- ✓ Reassess and record COWS after each treatment
- ✓ Note subjective change: 'feels better/worse' on ACR

Dose

Identify the available resources.

Buprenorphine/naloxone (SL/BUC):

- ✓ Initial 16 mg
- ✓ If needed after 10 min, give +8 mg
- ✓ Max 24 mg cumulative dose

Eligibility: naloxone given for this episode
AND COWS \geq 8.

If you suspect opioid withdrawal due to abstinence, consult BHP to consider Suboxone even if naloxone has not been given.

Doc

Chart clearly on the ACR:

- ✓ Patch details (time, BHP ID), COWS pre/post
- ✓ Total dose(s) and timing
- ✓ Patient-reported symptoms and changes (better/worse)

DO NOT ADMINISTER

if allergy/sensitivity to buprenorphine
OR methadone within 72 h.
Patch for advice if uncertain.



REGIONAL PARAMEDIC
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For additional resources, visit [Suboxone® Implementation – Guidance and Resources for Paramedics](#) at [RPPEO.ca](#) or use the QR code.

