

Low dose buprenorphine initiation Discharge Instructions

BEFORE STARTING MEDICATION PLEASE READ CAREFULLY

If you need support or linkage to care after your emergency department visit, call the warm line 7 days/week 9AM-9PM.

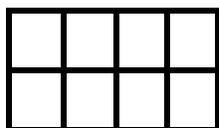
484-278-1679

***Wait until you are in withdrawal before starting Buprenorphine.**

LOW DOSE INITIATION

DAY 1 (At about 6 hours or more since last fentanyl use)

- Cut an 8mg buprenorphine strip into 8 pieces. Each piece is now 1mg.
- Take one piece every 1-2 hours. Speed up if you are feeling improvement or slow down if you start to feel worse.



- If you have increased discomfort shortly after a dose (10-15 minutes after), slow next dose down to 3 hours.
- **Your total dose for Day 1 will be 8mg.**

Day 2

- Take 1 strip in the AM and 1 strip in the PM a total of (16mg)



- **Your total dose for Day 2 will be 16mg.**

IMPORTANT TO KNOW

Medication Safety Instructions

- Store Buprenorphine in its original pharmacy packaging. Keep it at home unless you are traveling.
- Do not share Buprenorphine. If there are children or others in your home who may find the medicine, place it in a locked container on a high shelf or in a locked cabinet.
- Do not drive, operate heavy machinery, or perform other tasks that require you to be fully alert until

you see how you respond to the medicine.

- Do not drink alcohol while taking buprenorphine.
- Do not take benzodiazepines (Valium, Ativan, Xanax, Librium, etc.) or other sedatives while on buprenorphine unless directed by your doctor.
- **If you did not receive naloxone at the Emergency Department, please get it. The Pennsylvania Department of Health's Physician General signed a standing order prescription for naloxone. This means you do not need to get a prescription for naloxone from your healthcare provider. The standing order and more information on naloxone may be found at pa.gov/opioids.**
 - Through a partnership with the Pennsylvania Commission on Crime and Delinquency and NEXT Distro, anyone can get naloxone mailed to their home for free. Visit nextdistro.org/pachoice.

Follow Up

It is very important that you follow up with an outpatient provider to continue treatment.

When to Call for Help

Call 911 immediately if you cannot breathe or if you feel like hurting yourself or someone else.