

## Buprenorphine Microinduction Guide

### FOR OUTPATIENT USE

#### CHOICE OF PRODUCT:

- *Buprenorphine-naloxone films are recommended for microinduction*
- *Films are better to split into ¼ than tablets*
- *Combination product preferred over buprenorphine alone due to misuse/diversion risk*

#### CHOICE OF SLOW VS. RAPID:

- *Slow microinductions are great for patients who are reluctant to let go of their opioids*
  - *Buy-in may be better if patients can “test” out buprenorphine while initially continuing usage of their current substance*
- *Slow microinductions are preferred for patients who are utilizing illicit fentanyl to better control withdrawal symptoms while transitioning to buprenorphine.*
- *Rapid microinductions tend to be as well tolerated in terms of withdrawal symptoms, and may be a good option for someone who has had harms (overdose, confusion, illicit use, etc) with current opioid regimen*

**PROVIDE PATIENT WITH CORRESPONDING INSTRUCTIONAL HANDOUT (PAGES 3 & 4)**

<b><u>SLOW</u> BUPRENORPHINE MICROINDUCTION RECOMMENDATION<sup>-4</sup></b>		
TIME POINT	BUP-NAL RECOMMENDATIONS	CURRENT SUBSTANCE RECOMMENDATIONS
Day 1 (Initial Visit)	0.5mg-0.125mg sublingual daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 2	0.5mg-0.125mg sublingual twice daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 3	1mg-0.25mg sublingual twice daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 4	2mg-0.5mg sublingual twice daily	Reduce dose/use by 25%
Day 5	3mg-0.75mg sublingual twice daily	Reduce dose/use by 25%
Day 6	4mg-1mg sublingual twice daily	Reduce dose/use by 25%
Day 7 (Recommended follow-up appointment)	6mg-1.5mg sublingual twice daily	Reduce dose/use by 50%
Day 8	Based on craving response: 16mg-4mg to 24mg-6mg divided once to four times daily	Reduce dose/use by 50%
Days 9-11	Based on craving response: 16mg-4mg to 24mg-6mg divided once to four times daily	Reduce dose/use by 50-75%
Days 12-13	Based on craving response: 16mg-4mg to 24mg-6mg divided once to four times daily	Reduce dose/use by 75%
Day 14 (Next recommended follow-up appointment)	Based on craving response: 16mg-4mg to 24mg-6mg divided once to four times daily	STOP
Days 15 – beyond	Based on craving response: 16mg-4mg to 24mg-6mg divided once to four times daily	STOP

<b>RAPID BUPRENORPHINE MICROINDUCTION RECOMMENDATION<sup>1-4</sup></b>		
<b>TIME POINT</b>	<b>BUP-NAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>CURRENT SUBSTANCE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
Day 1 (Initial Visit)	0.5mg-0.125mg sublingual daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 2	0.5mg-0.125mg sublingual twice daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 3	1mg-0.25mg sublingual twice daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 4	2mg-0.5mg sublingual twice daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 5	3mg-0.75mg sublingual twice daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 6	4mg-1mg sublingual twice daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 7 (Recommended follow-up appointment)	6mg-1.5mg sublingual twice daily	STOP
Day 7 – beyond	Based on craving/response: 12-3 mg to 24-6 mg total daily dose (daily or divided up to four times daily)	STOP

References:

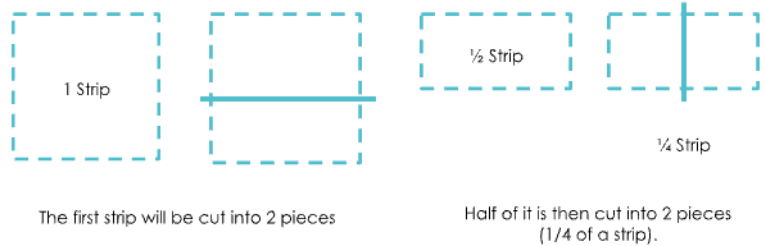
1. Klaire S, Zivanovic R, Barbic SP, Sandhu R, Mathew N, Azar P. Rapid Micro-Induction of Buprenorphine/Naloxone for Opioid Use Disorder in an Inpatient Setting: A Case Series. *Am J Addict.* 2019;28(4):262-265. doi:10.1111/ajad.12869
2. Randhawa PA, Brar R, Nolan S. Buprenorphine–naloxone “microdosing”: an alternative induction approach for the treatment of opioid use disorder in the wake of North America’s increasingly potent illicit drug market. *CMAJ.* 2020;192(3):E73-E73. doi:10.1503/cmaj.74018
3. Hämig R, Kemter A, Strasser J, et al. Use of microdoses for induction of buprenorphine treatment with overlapping full opioid agonist use: the Bernese method. *SAR.* 2016;Volume 7:99-105. doi:10.2147/SAR.S109919
4. Becker WC, Frank JW, Edens EL. Switching From High-Dose, Long-Term Opioids to Buprenorphine: A Case Series. *Annals of Internal Medicine.* 2020;173(1):70-71. doi:10.7326/L19-0725

*This resource has been developed by the MOMs+ interdisciplinary team based on published evidence and expert opinion. This material should not be reproduced or disseminated without prior permission from MOMs+ or Stader Opioid Consultants, LLC. This resource should never be used as a substitute for clinical judgment. Providers are responsible for assessing the unique circumstances and needs of each case. Adherence to this guideline will not ensure successful treatment in every situation. Developed in collaboration with Stader Opioid Consultants, LLC.*

## SLOW MICROINDUCTION PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS

### Administration technique

- Drink water to wet mouth
- Place tablet or film under tongue
- Allow 15 minutes to dissolve – do NOT swallow
- Avoid swallowing saliva to avoid stomach upset; may spit extra saliva after 15-30 minutes
- Avoid brushing teeth for 1 hour after tablet/film dissolves



You will be provided 2-0.5 mg Suboxone film's, and will follow dosing instructions below

<b><u>SLOW</u> BUPRENORPHINE MICROINDUCTION RECOMMENDATION<sup>-4</sup></b>			
DAY	DATE	SUBOXONE DOSE	CURRENT SUBSTANCE RECOMMENDATIONS
Day 1		¼ film once daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 2		¼ film twice daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 3		½ film twice daily	Continue current dose/use
Day 4		1 film twice daily	Reduce dose/use by 25%
Day 5		1 ½ films twice daily	Reduce dose/use by 25%
Day 6		2 film's twice daily	Reduce dose/use by 25%
Day 7		3 film's twice daily	Reduce dose/use by 50%
<b>Day 8 and beyond dosing to be filled in by provider at follow up appointments</b>			
Day 8			Reduce dose/use by 50%
Day 9			Reduce dose/use by 50%
Day 10			Reduce dose/use by 50-75%
Day 11			Reduce dose/use by 50-75%
Day 12			Reduce dose/use by 75%
Day 13			Reduce dose/use by 75%
Day 14			STOP
Days 15 – beyond			STOP

## RAPID MICROINDUCTION PATIENT INSTRUCTIONS

### Administration technique








- Drink water to wet mouth
- Place tablet or film under tongue
- Allow 15 minutes to dissolve – do NOT swallow
- Avoid swallowing saliva to avoid stomach upset; may spit extra saliva after 15-30 minutes
- Avoid brushing teeth for 1 hour after tablet/film dissolves



The first strip will be cut into 2 pieces

Half of it is then cut into 2 pieces (1/4 of a strip).

You will be provided 2-0.5 mg Suboxone film's, and will follow dosing instructions below

<b><u>RAPID</u> BUPRENORPHINE MICROINDUCTION RECOMMENDATION<sup>1-4</sup></b>			
<b>TIME POINT</b>	<b>DATE</b>	<b>BUP-NAL RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	<b>CURRENT SUBSTANCE RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
Day 1		1/4 film once daily 	Continue current dose/use
Day 2		1/4 film twice daily 	Continue current dose/use
Day 3		1/2 film twice daily 	Continue current dose/use
Day 4		1 film twice daily 	Continue current dose/use
Day 5		1 1/2 films twice daily 	Continue current dose/use
Day 6		2 film's twice daily 	Continue current dose/use
Day 7		3 film's twice daily 	STOP
<b>Day 8 and beyond dosing to be filled in by provider at follow up appointment</b>			
Day 8 – beyond			STOP