



PATIENT CONSENT FORM

Buprenorphine is an FDA approved medication for treatment of people with heroin or other opioid addiction. Buprenorphine can be used for detoxification or for maintenance therapy. Maintenance therapy can continue as long as medically necessary.

If you are dependent on opiates – any opiates – you should be in as much withdrawal as possible when you take the first dose of buprenorphine. If you are not in withdrawal, buprenorphine can cause severe opiate withdrawal.. We recommend that you arrange not to drive after your first dose, because some patients get drowsy until the correct dose is determined for them.

Some patient find that it takes several days to get used to the transition from the opiate they had been using to buprenorphine. During that time any use of other opiates may cause an increase in symptoms. After you become stabilized on buprenorphine, it is expected that other opiates will have less effect. Attempts to override the buprenorphine by taking more opiates could result in an opiate overdose. You should not take any other medication without discussing it with the physician first.

Combining buprenorphine with alcohol or other sedating medications is dangerous.

Although sublingual buprenorphine has not been shows to be liver-damaging, we will monitor your liver tests (drawing blood) while you are taking buprenorphine.

The form of buprenorphine you will be taking is a combination of buprenorphine with a short acting opiate blocker (Naloxone). It will maintain physical dependence, and if you discontinue it suddenly, you will likely experience withdrawal. If you are not already dependent, you should not take buprenorphine, it could eventually cause physical dependence.

Buprenorphine must be held under the tongue until they dissolve completely. It is important not to talk or swallow until the film dissolves. This takes up to ten minutes. Buprenorphine is then absorbed over the next 30-120 minutes from the tissue under the tongue. It will not be absorbed from the stomach if it is swallowed.

I have read and understand these details about buprenorphine treatment. I wish to enter this program.

Print name/ signature

Date