



Yolo County Emergency Medical Services Agency

Quick Reference

Revised Date: June 1, 2023

Medication Profile

Suboxone

(Buprenorphine and Naloxone)

Class:

Opioid Partial Agonist

Action:

Buprenorphine is a long-acting, high-affinity partial agonist at the mu-opioid receptor. As a long-acting agonist, buprenorphine prevents withdrawal and craving and stabilizes opioid receptors. As a high-affinity agonist, buprenorphine blocks other opioids from binding, preventing abuse of other opioids.

Onset: 15-20 minutes

Peak: 1-4 hours

Duration: 24-36 hours

Indications:

Tachycardia, diaphoresis, restlessness and/or agitation, dilated pupils, rhinorrhea or lacrimation, vomiting, diarrhea, yawning, piloerection, nausea, stomach/abdominal cramps, body aches, achy bones/joints, hot and cold, nasal congestion.

Contraindications:

Under 18, pregnant, methadone use in the previous 10 days, altered mental status and unable to give consent, severe medical illness (sepsis, respiratory distress, etc.), current intoxication or recent use of benzodiazepine, alcohol, or other intoxicant suspected, unable to comprehend potential risks and benefits for any reason, not a candidate for buprenorphine maintenance treatment for any reason, no clinical opioid use disorder symptoms.

Side Effects:

CNS: Headache

CV: None

RESP: Minimal respiratory suppression

GI: Constipation, nausea

Notes:

- Blocks other opioids
- Displaces other opioids
- Can precipitate withdrawal
- 25-100 times more potent than morphine

This document is not a substitute for Protocols and Procedures.