

PARAMEDIC STANDING ORDER

ALS

- This procedure may only be performed by ALS providers who have completed buprenorphine administration training. This MAY be performed if only one paramedic on scene has been trained.
- For patients in naloxone-induced or abstinence-induced opiate withdrawal:
 - Assess patient for any exclusion criteria
 - Altered mental status/ no capacity
 - Unwilling to give name and DOB
 - Taken any methadone within the past 72 hours/Currently enrolled in a methadone program
 - Not a daily opiate user
 - Age <16
- ***If any of the above are present, patient is NOT eligible for buprenorphine, continue with Overdose protocol.
- Calculate a Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS) score (Below)
 - ❖ Score must be calculated from three or more Sign/Symptom categories
 - For patients with naloxone induced opiate withdrawal with a COWS > or equal to 5 OR
 - For patients with abstinence induced opiate withdrawal with a COWS > or equal to 8
 - ☐ Counsel patient regarding buprenorphine treatment for withdrawal
 - ☐ Assess desire to initiate treatment
 - ☐ If patient DECLINES, the patient is NOT eligible for buprenorphine
- Patient agreeable to buprenorphine treatment
 - Give water to moisten mucous membranes
 - Administer 16mg SL **buprenorphine**
 - Reassess COWS score after 5-10min
 - ☐ If improved, proceed to appointment scheduling/referral process
 - ☐ If COWS worsened or not improved, can give an additional 8mg SL **buprenorphine**
 - ☐ If nausea continues, see [Nausea/Vomiting 2.11](#)
 - COWS should be recorded at a minimum once prior to buprenorphine administration and again prior to ending patient contact/encounter.
- **Appointment Scheduling:**
 - Provide patient with earliest appointment/meeting for next dose.
 - Monday – Friday appointment: 3 Cooper Plaza; Suite 220 @ 1pm-5pm (walk-in)
 - Saturday and Sunday appointment: patients are to be instructed to go to the **Cooper Emergency Department** to receive their dose.
- Offer patient an additional dose of naloxone for future use consistent with the “Leave Behind Narcan” program.

Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS)

Sign or Symptom	Score	
Heart Rate	0	< 80
	1	81 - 100
	2	101 - 120
	4	> 120
Sweating	0	None
	1	Subjective Report
	2	Flushed or moist face
	3	Beads of sweat on face
	4	Sweat streaming on face
Restlessness	0	Able to be still
	1	Subjective report of restlessness
	3	Frequent shifting or extraneous movements
	5	Unable to sit still for longer than a few seconds
Pupil size	0	Normal or small
	1	Pupils possibly larger than appropriate
	2	Pupils moderately dilated
	5	Pupils so dilated only rim of Iris is visible
Bone or Joint aches	0	None
	1	Mild diffuse discomfort
	2	Subjective report
	4	Actively rubbing joints or muscles
Rhinorrhea or lacrimation	0	None
	1	Congestion or moist eyes
	2	Rhinorrhea or lacrimation
	4	Nose constantly running or tears streaming
Yawning	0	None
	1	Yawning 1 - 2 times
	2	Yawning > 3 times
	4	Yawning several times a minute
Anxiety or irritability	0	None
	1	Subjective report
	2	Patient appears anxious
	4	So irritable that cannot participate in assessment
Gooseflesh	0	None
	3	Piloerection can be felt
	5	Prominent piloerection
GU Upset (over last ½ hour)	0	None
	1	Stomach Cramps
	2	Nausea or Loose Stool
	3	Vomiting or Diarrhea
	5	Multiple Episodes of Vomiting or Diarrhea
Tremors or Outstretched Hands	0	No Tremors
	1	Tremor Felt, but Not Observed
	2	Slight Tremor Observed
	4	Gross Tremor or Muscle Twitching