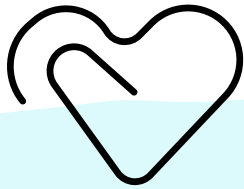
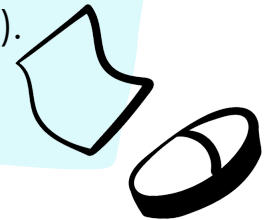


Bup/Nx (Buprenorphine-Naloxone) FAQ for Patients





Brand Names

SUBOXONE®, ZUBSOLV®, BUNAVAIL®, & SUBUTEX® (buprenorphine only) are brand names of buprenorphine products used for the treatment of Opioid Use Disorder (OUD).



Other FAQ


Q: Can Bup/Nx medication be harmful to a child that accidentally takes it?


A: Yes! It is very important that you keep it away from children as life-threatening overdoses have occurred when children take this medication. If a child takes your medication, call 9-1-1.

Q: How does Bup/Nx work?

A: Buprenorphine binds to the same receptors as the opioid(s) you are currently taking. It helps to stop cravings & withdrawal symptoms. This will help stabilize your brain & help you to focus on life goals & components of your treatment plan.

Q: Why do I have to feel sick to start Bup/Nx for it to work best?

A: This medication will compete with the opioid that you were using & will make your withdrawal symptoms worse. By already being in withdrawal when you take your first dose, this medication will make you feel BETTER, not worse.

Q: When will I start to feel better?

A: Most patients start to feel better 30min after they take their Bup/Nx medication, with full effects after about one hour.



Bup/Nx (Buprenorphine-Naloxone) FAQ for Patients (Continued)

Q: How long will Bup/Nx last?

A: Everyone's response is different but most feel good the rest of the day after the 1st or 2nd dose. When you are starting, it may take a while to find your stable dose. Your provider may increase or decrease your dose.



Q: Can I go to work right after my first dose Bup/Nx?

A: This medication can cause drowsiness & slow reaction times. These will go away after a few weeks of treatment. Some people do go to work if they have minimal side effects. You should not drive when you are first starting this medication.

Q: Is it important to take Bup/Nx at the same time each day?

A: It is important for you to take this medication around the same time every day & to take it just once a day, unless otherwise instructed by your provider. Breaking up this medication can change the way you absorb it & how it works for you.

Q: If I forget to take Bup/Nx for a day, will I feel sick?

A: This medication usually lasts longer than 24hrs, so most patients will not become ill if they miss one dose. If you feel ill after missing a dose, take your prescribed dose & then resume your normal treatment regimen. **DO NOT** take 2 doses unless otherwise directed by your provider.

Q: If I have more than one Bup/Nx tablet, do I need to take them at the same time?

A: You do need to take your dose in one "sitting," but you do not need to fit all tablets under your tongue at the same time. Some prefer this method, while others prefer divided doses. Be sure to take the full daily dose.

Q: Why does Bup/Nx need to be placed under the tongue?

A: This allows the medication to be absorbed quickly & safely. Chewing or swallowing this medication will not allow it to be absorbed, & it will not work. It must be completely dissolved for the full effect.



Bup/Nx (Buprenorphine-Naloxone) FAQ for Patients (Continued)


Q: Why does it sometimes take 5min to dissolve Bup/Nx, & other times it takes longer?


A: The moisture of your mouth can affect the time it takes to dissolve. Drinking water before taking your dose can help it dissolve quicker. Avoid acidic beverages & avoid smoking before taking it.


Q: What happens if I still feel sick after taking Bup/Nx for awhile?

A: Please be sure to discuss these effects with your provider.

Your provider may need to either increase or decrease your dose, address side effects, or recommend a different medication treatment.

 **Q: What happens if I take opioid drugs & then take Bup/Nx?**

 **A:** You may feel very sick & experience "precipitated withdrawal" (bad withdrawal symptoms).

 Bup/Nx will try to compete with the drugs & will make you feel sick.

Q: What happens if I take Bup/Nx & then take drugs (in general)?

A: As long as Bup/Nx is in your body, it will reduce effects of any opioid drug (heroin, oxycodone, etc.) or make them have no effect.

Other drugs like alcohol or anxiety medications (Valium, Xanax, Klonopin, etc.) are very dangerous when combined with Bup/Nx & should always be avoided.

Overdose & death have occurred when buprenorphine is mixed with other drugs. **DO NOT** take street drugs with this medicine, **DO NOT** drink alcohol to excess, & **TELL** your providers you are taking it so they can be careful prescribing other medicines that might interact.

Q: What are side effects of Bup/Nx?

A: Some people will have nausea, headache, constipation, dry mouth, or swelling. Most side effects will go away after 1-2 weeks.

If you are experiencing side effects, be sure to discuss with your provider.

Bup/Nx (Buprenorphine-Naloxone) FAQ for Patients (Continued)

Q: How often will I need to see my provider for Bup/Nx refills?

A: You will likely need to see your provider at least every week when you are on this medication. As you adjust & become more stable, you may be seen less frequently. If you are struggling with your illness, you may be seen more frequently.

Q: What do I do if I have a problem refilling Bup/Nx or a problem with my insurance coverage (prior authorization issue)?

A: Call your prescribing provider or have your pharmacy reach out to your prescriber. It may take a few days to get covered, depending on your insurance provider.

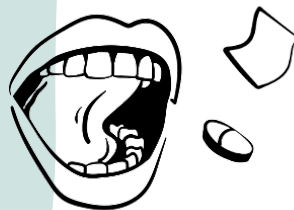
Q: Will Bup/Nx be useful for patients on methadone?

A: Some patients on methadone may be interested in whether Bup/Nx might help them.

Switching to buprenorphine is a complicated process.

In some cases, buprenorphine may not be strong enough for patients who are stable on high doses methadone, & switching may lead to increased cravings & the risk of a relapse to opioid use.

If you are on methadone & interested in alternative treatment, please consult with your methadone team &/or a buprenorphine prescriber to discuss your options.



*If you have NJ Medicaid, all generic forms of this medication should be covered by insurance without requiring prior authorization.