



APPROPRIATE USE CHECKLIST:

BUPRENORPHINE-CONTAINING TRANSMUCOSAL PRODUCTS FOR OPIOID DEPENDENCE

This checklist is a useful reminder of the safe use conditions and monitoring requirements for prescribing buprenorphine-containing transmucosal products for opioid dependence.

Requirements to address during each patient's appointment include:

- understanding and reinforcement of safe use conditions
- the importance of psychosocial counseling
- screening and monitoring patients to determine progress towards treatment goals

If a patient continues to abuse various drugs or is unresponsive to treatment, including psychosocial intervention, it is important that you assess the need to refer the patient to a specialist and/or a more intensive behavioral treatment environment.

Additional resource: Providers Clinical Support System for Medication Assisted Treatment: pcssnow.org

The following checklist may be used during the induction period and filed in the patient's medical record to document safe use conditions. After the induction period, use the [maintenance checklist](#) on the next page.

INDUCTION CHECKLIST		
ASSESSMENT TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE USE		NOTES
Date:		
CHECK	INDUCTION	
<input type="radio"/> Appropriate Diagnostic Criteria	Verified patient meets appropriate diagnostic criteria for opioid dependence	
<input type="radio"/> Prescription Drug Monitoring	Checked patient's prescription profile in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) , as appropriate	
<input type="radio"/> Opioids/CNS Depressants	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reviewed all medications (e.g., benzodiazepines, other opioids, CNS depressants) and illicit substances to assess for appropriateness of co-prescribing 	
<input type="radio"/> Risks and Side Effects	<p>Discussed the risks and side effects described in professional labeling and Medication Guide with patient including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • potential for abuse and misuse • potential for fatal additive effects with benzodiazepines and other CNS depressants, including alcohol 	
<input type="radio"/> Conditions of Safe Storage	<p>Explained or reviewed conditions of safe storage of medication</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reinforced importance of secure storage and keeping the medication out of the sight and reach of all others, especially children 	
<input type="radio"/> Induction Doses	Provided induction doses under appropriate medical supervision	
<input type="radio"/> Limited Amount of Medication	<p>Prescribed limited amount of medication at first visit</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • enough to last until next visit 	
<input type="radio"/> Professional Counseling	Provided or referred to professional counseling and support services	
<input type="radio"/> Scheduled Next Visit	<p>Scheduled next visit at interval commensurate with patient stability</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly, or more frequent, visits are recommended for the first month 	

The following checklist may be used for visits following the induction period and filed in the patient’s medical record to document safe use conditions.

MAINTENANCE CHECKLIST		
ASSESSMENT TO ENSURE APPROPRIATE USE		NOTES
Date:		
CHECK	INDUCTION	
○ Take Medication As Prescribed	Assessed and encouraged patient to take medication as prescribed	
○ Pill/Film Count/Dose Reconciliation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Consider pill/film count/dose reconciliation 	
○ Appropriateness of Dosage	Assessed appropriateness of dosage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buprenorphine combined with naloxone is recommended for maintenance: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Buprenorphine/Naloxone SL tablet and film (generic equivalents of Suboxone®): doses ranging from 12 mg to 16 mg of buprenorphine are recommended for maintenance • Buprenorphine and naloxone sublingual film (Cassipa®): a target dose of 16 mg of buprenorphine is recommended for maintenance • Buprenorphine/Naloxone SL tablet (Zubsolv®): a target dose of 11.4 mg buprenorphine is recommended for maintenance • Buprenorphine/Naloxone Buccal Film (Bunavail®): a target dose of 8.4 mg of buprenorphine is recommended for maintenance • Doses higher than this should be an exception • The need for higher doses should be carefully evaluated 	
○ Urine Drug Screens	Conducted urine drug screens as appropriate to monitor compliance with prescribed buprenorphine treatment plan or ascertain use of illicit substances	
○ Prescription Drug Monitoring Program	Checked patient’s prescription profile in the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP) , as appropriate	
○ Professional Counseling	Assessed participation in professional counseling and support services	
○ Benefits vs. Risks	Assessed whether benefits of treatment with buprenorphine-containing products outweigh risks associated with buprenorphine-containing products	
○ Progress Toward Treatment Goals	Assessed whether patient is making adequate progress toward treatment goals <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Considered results of urine drug screens as part of the evidence of the patient complying with the treatment program • Considered referral to more intensive forms of treatment for patients not making progress 	
○ Scheduled Next Visit	Scheduled next visit at interval commensurate with patient stability <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly, or more frequent, visits are recommended for the first month 	