



# Opioid Withdrawal

EMS Medical Director:

Signature on File

EMS Administrator:

Signature on File

### Assess Opioid Withdrawal Signs and Symptoms:

#### Objective Signs:

- Tachycardia
- Diaphoresis
- Restlessness and/or agitation
- Dilated pupils
- Rhinorrhea or lacrimation
- Vomiting, diarrhea
- Yawning
- Piloerection

#### Subjective Symptoms:

- Nausea
- Stomach / abdominal cramps
- Body aches
- Achy bones / joints
- Restlessness
- Hot and Cold
- Nasal congestion

Signs or Symptoms Present

### Assess for Exclusion Criteria:

- Under 18 years of age
- Pregnant
- Any methadone use within last 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 intoxicants suspected
- No clinical opioid use disorder symptoms
- Unable to comprehend potential risks and benefits for any reason
- Not a candidate for buprenorphine treatment for any reason

No

Yes

P	Provide supportive treatment and counseling
	Assess patient interest in buprenorphine

<b>COWS <math>\geq</math> 7</b> (Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale)
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<b>Not eligible for prehospital treatment</b>
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Patient agrees to treatment

Patient denies treatment

P	Contact Medical Control Physician for buprenorphine administration approval
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P	Provide medication for addiction treatment (MAT) brochure
	Provide naloxone
	Offer transport

With physician approval	
P	Give water to moisten mucous membranes
	Administer 16 mg buprenorphine SL
	Reassess after 10 minutes

If symptoms worsen or persist

P	Re-dose with 8 mg buprenorphine SL
	Total maximum dose 24 mg SL during encounter

If symptoms improve

P	Recommend transport to ED or designated overdose receiving center
	Verify patient contact information
	Inform the patient that the hospital's navigator will initiate contact within 72 hours to offer additional treatment

Patient declines transport

P	Provide naloxone and Leave Behind Kit
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Adult Medical Treatment Guidelines

