

BUPRENORPHINE

Revised Nov. 2016

What is it?

Buprenorphine (bupe) is a prescribed medicine that is used to treat addiction to heroin and other opiates. It treats withdrawal and reduces craving.

Bupe is often referred to by its brand names. **Subutex®** or **Suboxone®**

Suboxone® mixes buprenorphine with naloxone, a reversal agent present only to deter abuse potential. This keeps individuals from altering the drug into a form that could be injected.

Subutex® does not contain naloxone and is usually only given to pregnant women.

Bupe comes as both a tablet or a film; both need to dissolve under your tongue. You and your provider will determine what dose you need to stop craving.

Like other opiates, with regular use you will become physically dependent on it.

Why should I use it?

- Research shows that any medication assisted treatment (MAT)— bupe or methadone, can cut your risk of dying from overdose in half.
- Research also shows that people who have been addicted to opiates are more successful at avoiding relapse if they use MAT.
- You can get bupe from a specially trained medical provider in the privacy of their office or clinic, just like you would get care for other medical conditions.
- Many bupe users say they feel “normal” on bupe. Some find it less sedating than methadone.
- Withdrawal from bupe is usually less severe than from heroin or methadone.

How can I get it?

You need to see a specially trained medical provider. Bupe is covered by Medicaid/Apple Health.

CAUTION!

- If you crush **Suboxone®** and shoot it, the naloxone may put you into withdrawal. This does not happen if you let the bupe dissolve under your tongue.
- If you get buprenorphine on the street, make sure you are in moderate withdrawal before you take it. If you don't, the bupe could kick you into full-blown withdrawal.
- Using benzos, alcohol, or other depressants, along with bupe can cause overdose, making it harder for you to breathe. Be honest with your provider about what other drugs you are taking.
- Stopping bupe frequently leads to relapse.

How do I pay for it?

Bupe is covered by Apple Health (Medicaid). Some private insurance plans cover it; some do not. Each plan has its own coverage rules. Check with your insurance providers. Some providers accept cash as payment.

What if I'm already on methadone?

You can switch to bupe. The switch needs to be medically managed, which will include cutting back your methadone. The first step is to talk to your provider about which medicine might be better for you.. You can switch back if you decide you prefer methadone.

For a list of medical providers in King County who prescribe buprenorphine and accept Apple Health/Medicaid, see back of this sheet.

Find out more at buprenorphine.samhsa.gov or suboxone.com or talk to your doctor.

Buprenorphine providers in King County who accept Apple Health / Medicaid

Swedish Central

1600 E Jefferson St, Suite 510
Seattle, WA 98122
206-320-4888

Clinic takes one new buprenorphine patient per day. Must be first caller of the day. Clinic opens at 7am Monday through Friday.

Swedish First Hill Family Medicine

1401 Madison St, Suite 100
Seattle, WA 98122
206-386-6111

PMO Care

1215 120th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98005
425-283-4200

Neighborcare Health at High Point

6020 35th Ave SW
Seattle, WA 98126
206-461-6950

Neighborcare Health at 45th Street

Dr. Megan Wilson
1629 N 45th Street
Seattle, WA 98103
206-633-3350

Neighborcare Health at Greenwood

Dr. Matthew Perez
451 N 85th Street
Seattle, WA 98103
206-782-8660

Nina Spalek, M.D.

Family Physicians General Clinic
12459 Ambaum Blvd SW, Suite A
Seattle, WA 98146
206-444-6533

Harborview Medical Center

Addictions Program – Suboxone Unit
401 Broadway Ave
Seattle, WA 98104
206-744-9657

Harborview Medical Center

Adult Medicine Clinic
With Primary Care for Suboxone
Intake line: 206-744-2332

For help getting buprenorphine, methadone or other treatment services, call or stop in:

Robert Clewis Center

2124 Fourth Ave (4th & Blanchard in Downtown Seattle)
Treatment Access & Social Work: 206-477-8241

Other Resources & Links

Washington Recovery Help Line

1-866-789-1511

WArecoveryHELPLine.org/

24-hour help for substance abuse, problem gambling & mental health. Free and confidential support and linkage to local treatment providers.

**Needle Exchange is open somewhere in King County
7 days a week, 365 days a year, including most holidays.**

LOCATION	MON	TUES	WED	THURS	FRI	SAT	SUN
DOWNTOWN Seattle Robert Clewis Center 2124 4th Ave (4th & Blanchard in Belltown)	1-5 pm	1-5 pm	1-5 pm	1-5 pm	1-5 pm	2-4 pm	
CAPITOL HILL Robert Clewis Center 2 1161 11th Ave (between Madison & Union)	6:30-8:30 pm	6:30-8:30 pm	6:30-8:30 pm	6:30-8:30 pm	6:30-8:30 pm	6:30-8:30 pm	
U-District – People’s Harm Reduction Alliance (PHRA) NE43rd & University Way NE (table in alley behind Post Office)	5-7 pm	3-5 pm	5-7 pm	5-7 pm	1-5 pm		1-5 pm
SCORE – South County Outreach Referral & Exchange To schedule a delivery, call 206-214-6040		✓	✓		✓		
North & East King County (PHRA) To schedule a delivery, call 530-454-5410	✓						

Buprenorphine Physician Locator

Substance Abuse & Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
buprenorphine.samhsa.gov/bwns_locator/

For more info about Suboxone®:

suboxone.com

Public Health 
Seattle & King County

ASK US ABOUT NALOXONE – SAVE A LIFE!

Revised November 2016
Alternative formats available

Find out more at buprenorphine.samhsa.gov or suboxone.com or talk to your doctor.