

# Treatment Consent Forms: Transmucosal Buprenorphine Consent Form

## CONSENT FOR TREATMENT WITH TRANSMUCOSAL BUPRENORPHINE

Buprenorphine is an FDA-approved medication for treatment of people with opioid use disorder. Buprenorphine is available in tablet, film, and injectable formations. The tablet and film forms of the medicine are most commonly available as a combination of two medications, buprenorphine and naloxone. The buprenorphine-mono tablet is typically reserved for pregnant women.

Buprenorphine has been shown to be a safe and effective medication for long-term treatment of opioid use disorder. However, since buprenorphine is an opioid medication, ongoing use of the medicine will result in physical dependence. Withdrawal from buprenorphine is generally less intense than withdrawal from heroin or methadone. If buprenorphine is suddenly discontinued, patients may have mild withdrawal symptoms while others may have more severe symptoms such as muscle aches, stomach cramping, or insomnia lasting several days to weeks. To minimize the possibility of opioid withdrawal, buprenorphine should be discontinued gradually and with the support of the treatment team.

Combining buprenorphine with alcohol or sedating medications, such as benzodiazepines, may be hazardous and could result in overdose or death. It is recommended to discuss all of your medications with your health care team.

Buprenorphine tablets/films **must** be held under the tongue until the medicine completely dissolves. Buprenorphine will not be absorbed from the stomach if it is swallowed. Abstain from eating, drinking, and smoking until 15 minutes after taking the medication.

If you are dependent on opioids, like fentanyl or methadone, you should be in as much withdrawal as you can tolerate when you take your first dose of buprenorphine. Being in withdrawal ensures that the previously-used opioid will be less likely to interact with the medicine. If you are not in withdrawal, buprenorphine can quickly cause severe opioid withdrawal.

It may take several days to comfortably transition from the opioid that you had been taking to buprenorphine. After stabilizing on buprenorphine, the use of other opioids will have less of an effect. Attempts to override the buprenorphine by taking more opioids could result in an overdose.

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Witness	Date
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