



SUBLOCADE® Patient Education Sheet

This handout provides information on SUBLOCADE®, an injectable formulation of buprenorphine. Please read it and let your provider know if you have any questions.

What is SUBLOCADE®, and how does it work? SUBLOCADE® is a long-acting buprenorphine injection used to treat opioid use disorder. The injection is available in two doses (300 mg and 100 mg) and is administered every 28 days.

- SUBLOCADE® gives you an entire month of medicine in one injection. It continuously releases medicine at steady levels without daily highs and lows.
- The manufacturer recommends initiating SUBLOCADE® with a loading dose of 300 mg for the first two months. For maintenance, individuals can continue the 300 mg dose or decrease to the 100 mg dose.

What do I need to do before starting SUBLOCADE®? Before starting SUBLOCADE®, you must tolerate ≥ 8 mg daily of transmucosal buprenorphine for at least 7 days.

- If you are currently using opioids and not taking buprenorphine, work with your provider to start buprenorphine films or tabs first to avoid precipitated withdrawal prior to receiving the injection.

How will I get my SUBLOCADE® injections?

- SUBLOCADE® will be administered by your healthcare provider as a subcutaneous injection (under the skin) in your stomach (abdomen).
- SUBLOCADE® is injected as a liquid that forms a lump under the skin called a depot. You may see or feel a small bump under your skin at the injection site for several weeks, which may get smaller over time. Do not try to remove the depot.

What are the possible side effects of SUBLOCADE®? Like any medicine, SUBLOCADE® may cause side effects. The most common side effects are:

- Headache
- Constipation
- Nausea/Vomiting
- Fatigue
- Increased liver enzymes

Injection-site adverse reactions are typically mild to moderate. Still, please contact your healthcare team immediately if you experience increased pain, redness, skin changes, or burning/itching of the injection site, as this may warrant further evaluation.

Contact your health care team or seek care immediately if you think you may be experiencing any other severe side effects, such as trouble breathing, sleepiness, dizziness or problems with coordination, liver problems (dark urine, yellow skin/eyes, abdominal pain), allergic reaction, opioid withdrawal, or low blood pressure.

What is the important safety information I need to know about SUBLOCADE®?

SUBLOCADE® should never be injected into a vein because it would cause serious harm or even death. Patients should never handle this medication.

Death or serious harm can happen if you take anxiety medicines or benzodiazepines, sleeping pills, tranquilizers, muscle relaxers or sedatives, or drink alcohol during treatment with SUBLOCADE®. In an emergency, you or your family should tell the medical staff you are on SUBLOCADE®.

Ask your healthcare provider about naloxone (Narcan®) —a medication that reverses an opioid overdose.

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