Treating Opioid Use Disorder
In The Emergency Department

AM I ELIGIBLE?
Before starting suboxone, you must have withdrawal symptoms:
Suboxone can make you feel sick if you aren’t in withdrawal. Here are some common symptoms you may experience when withdrawing:

- Yawning frequently
- Runny nose and tearing
- Enlarged pupils and sweating
- Stomach cramps, diarrhea, nausea
- Tremors/shaking
- Joint/bone pain
- Goose bumps
- Anxiety

In general, we recommend starting suboxone:
1. 12 hours since you did heroin or prescription opioids (oxycodone, vicodin).
2. 16 hours since you last took oxycontin.
3. 48 hours since you last took methadone.
4. When your withdrawal has reached moderate level. See page two to gauge the severity of your withdrawal.

WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN YOU ARRIVE TO THE ED

PHASE 1: Intake
- You will be asked a series of questions related to your substance use
- Providing the most accurate information about your recent use and current symptoms will help the doctor provide you with the best level of care

PHASE 2: Starting Suboxone
- Assessment is completed to gauge your level of withdrawal
- Continuous monitoring of symptoms
- Suboxone is administered
- Once stabilized, the ED care coordination team will provide an individualized follow-up plan

PHASE 3: Beyond the ED
- Review your care plan and any additional resources provided for support
- Begin your medication maintenance as directed in your care plan
- ED Care Coordination team will follow-up shortly after your ED visit

*Please note, the ED is not able to refill suboxone prescriptions

READY TO GET STARTED ON SUBOXONE?
Arrive at one of the two hospital emergency departments locations:

84th Avenue Neighborhood Health Center
2551 W 84th Ave, Westminster, CO 80031

St. Anthony North Health Campus
14300 Orchard Pkwy, Westminster, CO 80023

If you have additional questions about whether Suboxone is right for you, please contact your physician.
**Instructions:** We recommend once your withdrawal begins to gauge the progression of your symptoms with the chart below. This will help give the ED treatment team valuable insight to determine the best level of care for you.

**Scale:**
- 0 = Not at all
- 1 = A little
- 2 = Moderately
- 3 = Quite a bit
- 4 = Extremely

**Subjective Opiate Withdrawal Scale (SOWS)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>SYMPTOM</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
<th>SCORE</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. I feel anxious</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. I feel like yawning</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. I am perspiring</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4. My eyes are tearing</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5. My nose is running</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6. I have goosebumps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7. I am shaking</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8. I have hot flushes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9. I have cold flushes</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10. My bones and muscles ache</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11. I feel restless</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12. I feel nauseous</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13. I feel like vomiting</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14. My muscles twitch</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15. I have stomach cramps</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16. I feel like using now</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TOTAL**

**Mild withdrawal = 1 - 10**
**Moderate withdrawal = 11 - 20**
**Severe Withdrawal = 21 - 30**

*The best time to receive Suboxone is when you’re in moderate withdrawal.*