

# 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:**



**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:



If you have additional questions about whether Suboxone is right for you, please contact your physician.

# Subjective Opiate Withdrawal Scale (SOWS)

**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

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

**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.