

Net New Paper Order Set: High-Dose Suboxone Induction for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

[High-dose Induction of Buprenorphine-Naloxone \(Suboxone\) Paper Order Set](#) is now available for all non-CPOE (paper-based) sites as of June 16, 2025. With this update, the High-Dose Induction Order Set is accessible at both electronic and paper-based sites across Island Health acute care settings. The existing [Traditional Dose Buprenorphine Induction Order Set](#) (see [Quick Reference Guide](#)) will be removed from circulation until it can be updated to reflect best practice.

Use of high dose inductions aims for quicker saturation of mu-opioid receptors to optimize buprenorphine's partial agonist effects and reduce opioid withdrawal symptoms. This induction method is suitable for patients who have undergone a full opioid reversal with naloxone in the past two hours (without receiving opioids since the reversal), or for patients with high opioid tolerance who would typically receive a traditional induction.

Not sure which induction method to use? The [Buprenorphine Induction Decision Support Tool](#) can help guide clinical decisions. Two buprenorphine induction methods — [low-dose](#), [high-dose](#) — are available at all Island Health hospitals.

Education: For quick reference guides on buprenorphine, precipitated withdrawal, and induction methods, visit the [Addiction Medicine and Substance Use Clinical Practice Supports page](#).

Consult with Addiction Medicine specialist if needed:

- [Addiction Medicine Consult Service \(AMCS\)](#): Use the [Online Physician Scheduling System](#) to find contact information for the available provider for your site. *Nurses can contact AMCS directly after initial consult is requested by provider.*
- If AMCS unavailable: Nurse, pharmacist, or provider can call [the BC Centre on Substance Use 24/7 Clinician Line at \(778\) 945 – 7619](#).
 - For after hours perinatal substance use consultation support, providers can contact BC Women's Hospital 24/7 by paging 604-875-2161 and request the Perinatal Addiction Service Doctor on Call.

For further details, see the [Physician Practice Alert: High-Dose Buprenorphine Induction](#).

For education requests or questions, email amsu@islandhealth.ca.