

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

Effective June 16, 2025, the [Low-Dose Buprenorphine-Naloxone \(Suboxone\) Induction Paper Order Set](#) is available for use at all non-CPOE (paper-based) sites. This ensures the Low-Dose Induction Order Set is accessible at both electronic and paper-based Island Health acute care sites. 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.

Low-dose induction involves initiating Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone) at very small doses that gradually increase over several days. In contrast to traditional or high-dose induction methods, this approach permits the continued use of full opioid agonists—such as hydromorphone or fentanyl—throughout the induction period. As a result, a withdrawal period is not required prior to initiation, making this method appropriate for patients at high risk of precipitated withdrawal or for those who are not ready to discontinue opioid use or experience withdrawal symptoms prior to induction. Providers may choose between a 3-day or 6-day protocol based on individual clinical needs and patient presentation.

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: Low-Dose Buprenorphine Induction](#).

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