

CBHS Pharmacy Buprenorphine FAQ's for CBHS Prescribers

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What services does CBHS Pharmacy provide for buprenorphine patients?

We provide special services for buprenorphine patients at CBHS Pharmacy including the following:

Refill requests: We fax refill requests to the prescriber approximately 7-days prior to the patient's next pick-up date. This allows for uninterrupted therapy.

Monitoring: Patients check in with a pharmacist every time they pick up buprenorphine. If the patient appears intoxicated with a CNS depressant, patients will be referred to the buprenorphine prescriber for follow up and re-evaluation. Any reported/observed substance use, opioid withdrawal symptoms, side effects or sub-acute changes in patient's condition will be reported to the buprenorphine prescriber.

Observed dosing: Providers have the option to request observed dosing for patients at CBHS Pharmacy dispensing window.

Frequent dosing: Providers have the option to request dosing schedules more frequent than every 28 days. For example, every 2 weeks, weekly, 2 times per week or even daily with the exception of Holidays or weekends.

Intranasal naloxone: Patients can be educated on the risks for opioid overdose and trained to respond to such overdose with intranasal (IN) naloxone. Clinical pharmacists at CBHS Pharmacy can prescribe IN naloxone or it can be prescribed by any CBHS prescriber.

Clean injection kits: We provide clean injection kits with syringes to our patients at no charge. Used syringes can be dropped off at any Walgreens in San Francisco.

What is CBHS Pharmacy's policy on early or late buprenorphine pick-ups?

Early pick-ups: We do not allow patients to pick-up before their assigned pick-up date without permission by the prescriber. Example: Patient pick-ups a 7 day supply on a Tuesday, making the following Tuesday their next assigned pick-up date. If the patient comes back the next Monday, permission from the prescriber will be required.

Late pick-ups: Patients that are ≥ 10 days late picking up from their assigned pick-up dates will require permission from the prescriber to dispense buprenorphine. Patients < 10 days late picking up will be counseled on adherence and given the prescription as written.

Does CBHS Pharmacy have any policies that may effect the buprenorphine prescription I write?

Dispense in 7 day increments: Because we are not open on weekends and to keep patients assigned pick-up days the same day of the week, CBHS Pharmacy will dispense in increments of 7 day supplies unless otherwise documented by the prescriber. Example: Prescription written for a 30 days supply will be dispense for a 28 days supply.

Buprenorphine/naloxone film: In order to improve patient safety, CBHS Pharmacy has recommendations for which dosage strengths to use based on total daily dose. (See: [What buprenorphine products does CBHS stock?](#))

What are CBHS Pharmacy's hours of operation and location?

We are open Monday through Friday and located at 1380 Howard St. The window is open for pick-ups 9:00am – 4:30pm. Pharmacy staff are available by phone 8:30am – 5:00pm for any questions.

What if my patient is due to pick-up on a holiday and CBHS Pharmacy is closed?

If a patient's scheduled pick-up date falls on a holiday when CBHS Pharmacy is closed, the patient will be allowed to pick-up their buprenorphine one business day before the holiday. CBHS Pharmacy posts signs reminding patients of holidays and this policy.

What is CBHS Pharmacy's vacation supply policy?

CBHS Pharmacy allows vacation supplies of up to 35 day with permission by the prescriber limited to one time per year. Other restrictions may apply and a prior authorization may be required depending on the patient's insurance.

What buprenorphine products does CBHD Pharmacy stock?

CBHS Pharmacy stocks buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual tablets and film (Suboxone) and buprenorphine alone (Subutex) sublingual tablets. Product coverage varies by insurance or third-party payer.

For buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual film, CBHS Pharmacy recommends using the following table to determine product dosage strength selections. This is intended to improve patient safety by minimizing dosage strengths dispensed to the patient and the need to cut and dispose of unused product

	Quantity of Films Per Day			
Dose	2mg Film	4mg Film	8mg Film	12mg Film
24mg				2
16mg			2	
12mg				1
8mg			1	
4mg		1		
2mg	1			

Maintenance Doses to Avoid

	Quantity of Films Per Day			
Dose	2mg Film	4mg Film	8mg Film	12mg Film
40mg ¹			5	
32mg ¹			4	
20mg ²			1	1
10mg ²	1		1	
6mg ¹	3			

¹ Maintenance doses requiring ≥ 3 strips should be avoided to reduce risk of diversion and minimize costs. Exception: TID dosing for pain

² Doses requiring 2 strengths should be avoided due to potential errors by prescriber, errors by pharmacy and unlikely to be covered by insurance

Does CBHS Pharmacy provide buprenorphine only tablets?

We do stock buprenorphine only sublingual tablets and may be prescribed to any patient. We recommend buprenorphine only tablets be considered in the following patient groups:

Low risk for diversion: Patients with a low suspicion of diversion and history of stability. The buprenorphine pharmacist, Michelle Geier, PharmD can assess your patient's refill history to aide in this decision by calling (415) 503 – 4755.

Pregnancy: We recommend the buprenorphine only product for all pregnant women

Does a patient have to use CBHS Pharmacy for buprenorphine?

A patient's insurance and whether they are active in CBHS determine if a patient is required to receive buprenorphine at CBHS. *It is recommend to stabilize patients at CBHS Pharmacy due to the special services and monitoring provided (see above) prior to transferring to an outside pharmacy.

Insurance	CBHS Status?	Pharmacy Option
Healthy San Francisco Or Uninsured	Active	Any pharmacy*
Healthy San Francisco	Not active	CBHS Pharmacy Only
All other insurance	Not applicable	Any pharmacy*, however additional prior authorizations may be required depending on plan

I recently received my DATA 2000 waiver; does CBHS Pharmacy provide a pharmacy orientation for providers?

Yes, we would be happy to meet with you, introduce you to our staff and orient you to our buprenorphine pharmacy services that we provide at CBHS Pharmacy. In addition, we can help you prepare for DEA audits.

What are the record keeping requirements for prescribing buprenorphine?

The DEA has additional record keeping requirements for controlled substances prescribed for office-based opioid therapy, such as buprenorphine, beyond the usual for Schedule III substances .The following are the record keeping requirements:

Buprenorphine Inventory Log: Prescribers must keep an inventory of buprenorphine dispensed (21 CFR Section 1304.03[b]). This log is *required* even if the prescriber does not stock buprenorphine products. Because no CBHS clinic stocks buprenorphine products, this is generally a log with a zero balance.

Buprenorphine Prescribed/Dispensed Log: Prescribers must keep a log of controlled substances prescribed for maintenance or detoxification. This can be accomplished by creating a log (patient name, name of drug, strength, quantity and date of issuance) or keeping copies of each prescription. See 21 CFR Section 1304.03[c].

Does Infoscriber meet the requirements of a Buprenorphine Prescribed/Dispensed Log?

Yes, Infoscriber meets the requirements of a Buprenorphine Prescribed/Dispensed Log required by the DEA. However, you will still need to to have a Buprenorphine Inventory Log. Use the following steps to access the information required for a Buprenorphine Prescribed/Dispensed Log in the case of a DEA audit:

1. On the Infoscriber “Prescriber Desktop” under “Reports” click “List of Patients with Active Orders by Prescriber”
2. In the drop down list, select yourself as the prescriber and “Prescribed Patients”
3. Use Ctrl+F to search the document. Enter “Suboxone” into the “Find” field. Click the “Next” button to scroll through patients. Write down the patients names, this is your list of active buprenorphine patients.
4. If you are also prescribing a buprenorphine generic product, repeat Step 3 with the word “buprenorphine” in the “Find” field.
5. Close this report and return to the Infoscriber “Prescriber Desktop”
6. Under “Reports” click “Individual Medication Profile”
7. Using your list of active buprenorphine patients you made in Step 3, type in the first patient’s name
8. From this report you can determine information required for the Buprenorphine Prescribed/Dispensed Log: drug name, strength, days supply (click the drug name), and date of issuance
9. You may need to click “Display Entire History” at the bottom right corner of the screen to see older history
10. Repeat Steps 6 – 9 with each your active buprenorphine patients.

What is the preferred method to prescribe buprenorphine through Infoscriber?

The following is the preferred method to prescribe buprenorphine through Infoscriber

1. Enter prescription order for buprenorphine product in the same manner you would for other prescribed medications. In the Order Confirmation screen, click the “print” bubble followed by “accept order.”
2. Sign manually (wet signature) the printed prescription.
3. Fax prescription with wet signature to CBHS Pharmacy at (415) 255 – 3754 or other pharmacy.

Other methods (not preferred):

Faxed without wet signature: This requires a pharmacist or pharmacy intern to speak with the prescriber to get a verbal authorization.

Write prescription on a controlled substance Rx pad and have patient bring to pharmacy: It is CBHS’s policy that all prescriptions must be entered into the electronic prescribing record.

Telephone a verbal order: See above

Who can I contact if I have further questions regarding buprenorphine at CBHS Pharmacy?

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