



ABOUT SUBOXONE

What is a Suboxone Clinic? Is It Right for Me?

Opioid addiction, or opioid use disorder, is a chronic disease that is characterized by strong cravings to use opioids. People know that they are physically dependent on opioids when, if they try to stop using, find themselves overwhelmed by withdrawal symptoms.

When abused, these highly addictive drugs can cause overwhelming health, social, and economic distress. People dependent on opioids prioritize their drug use over all other parts of their lives. More than two million Americans misuse prescription pain pills and illicit opioids like heroin and fentanyl. To address this epidemic, outpatient Suboxone clinics are rising to the challenge to accommodate the urgent need for treatment.

What is a Suboxone Clinic?

Suboxone clinics are medication-assisted treatment (MAT) centers. These outpatient rehabilitation centers combine behavioral therapy and prescription medication to treat opioid addiction. Suboxone doctors prescribe buprenorphine-based medications like Suboxone and Zubsolv. The combination of behavioral therapy helps patients go back to living a healthy life.

How Does Suboxone Treatment Work?

When a person takes pain pills or street opioids, the drug attaches to receptors in the brain. When the receptors are fully "occupied" by opioids, the brain's perception of pain is reduced.

Suboxone, Zubsolv and other buprenorphine products only partially fill the same receptors. Patients do not experience the same euphoria that they would with pain pills or street drugs, but buprenorphine satisfies the receptors enough that it curbs cravings and stops withdrawal symptoms.

Suboxone treatment involves taking a daily dose of Suboxone instead of pain pills or street opioids.

In addition, counseling is a vital component of Suboxone treatment. Counselors are assigned based on individual needs and work with individuals to address the underlying emotional issues that contribute to addiction.

All in all, medication-assisted treatment is proven to have the best long term results.

Is a Suboxone Clinic Right For You?

Medication-assisted treatment with Suboxone and other buprenorphine medications are highly effective for those struggling with an addiction to opioids. If you are diagnosed with Opioid Use Disorder, you are likely a good candidate for treatment.

It's important to note that while you are prescribed Suboxone, it is dangerous to drink alcohol or take any benzodiazepines. If you consume either while taking Suboxone, there is an increased risk of respiratory failure.

Suboxone treatment replaces pain pills or street opioids with a medication prescribed by a licensed practitioner and partially fills the opioid receptors in your brain. Because it only partially fills the receptors, patients do not continue to build a tolerance. This is an important distinguishing characteristic from methadone. Once patients are stabilized on their medication, they can begin to put their lives back together.

Find a Suboxone Clinic Near You

Dr. Hoover's Opiate Treatment Center is a Mississippi based medication-assisted treatment center that helps people recover from opioid addiction.

This Suboxone clinic helps patients overcome physical, emotional, and social barriers to help them recover. By combining prescription medication with behavioral therapy, Dr. Hoover's Opiate Treatment Center provides a truly personalized experience for each patient.

Unlike other clinics that have strict rules about what patients can and cannot do, Dr. Hoover's Opiate Treatment Center has built a culture that addresses each individual's needs before administering treatment. You are guaranteed a personalized experience to help you recover from your opioid addiction.

When you visit their office in office in Gautier, you will meet with a provider experience prescribing Suboxone.

To learn more about Suboxone Clinics and find out if it is the right option for you, contact Dr. Hoover's Opiate Treatment Center today.

Email: hooverclinics@gmail.com
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First Day of Suboxone Treatment: What to Expect

The decision to heal and take control of your life is a courageous one. While the path to overcoming addiction has its challenges, the result is well worth it. If you are taking the first step away from opioid addiction, Suboxone can be incredibly effective in this process. Read on to learn about the first day on Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv) and how to prepare for it.

Preparing for the First Day on Suboxone

When taken as prescribed, Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv) is proven to be an effective medication in treating opioid use disorder. Suboxone (buprenorphine and naloxone) sublingual film is prescribed to be placed under the tongue once per day. The dose will be set by your Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv) provider and adjusted accordingly. Your Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv) provider will provide details about timing and help you through the process so that you don't skip over any important steps.

Pre-Suboxone Withdrawal Process

Before your first dose, you will need to be in withdrawal to start your Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv) regimen. This step is crucial because taking Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv) while your body is not in sufficient withdrawal from opioids can cause even more severe withdrawal symptoms. The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) warns that those "with opioids in their bloodstream or who are not in the early stages of withdrawal may experience acute withdrawal," often called "precipitated withdrawal." The symptoms associated with precipitated withdrawal are severe. A guide like the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale (COWS) helps determine whether or not you have reached or surpassed mild withdrawal symptoms. If you are at this stage, you are ready to begin treatment. If you are unsure whether your opioid withdrawal symptoms have reached the threshold for taking your first dose of Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv), you can always reach out to the Suboxone provider who wrote your prescription. They can help you make the assessment.

How Long To Wait Before Taking Suboxone

If you are wondering how long to wait before taking Suboxone, the answer has to do with the symptoms of withdrawal rather than a set amount of time. However, factors, including the type of opioid drugs and the dosage strengths you are taking, influence how long to wait before taking Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv). For instance, short-acting opioids such as Norco typically leave the body within 24 hours. Long-acting and stronger opioids like Oxycontin and Opana can take 48 hours to work their way out of the system. Ideally, you should stop taking any opioids at least 72 hours before you start Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv). It is critical that you are upfront about exactly what drug forms and dosages you are using, as this allows providers to determine when it's safe to take Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv) and the best course of action for treatment. Street drugs such as heroin and fentanyl are often mixed with unknown additives, and some of those additives have very long half-lives. This makes paying attention to opioid withdrawal symptoms even more important.

What To Expect for Your First Day on Suboxone

The initial appointment at a Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv) clinic includes a conversation with a medical provider to determine which medication is right for you. It also often involves providing a urine sample. If you and your provider agree that medication assisted treatment (MAT) is right for you, you'll move on to the next phase.

The Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv) prescriber will take a detailed history of your struggles with addiction, as well as your overall mental and physical health. Based on your situation, if the prescriber determines that you are a good candidate for Suboxone (buprenorphine-naloxone, Zubsolv), they will write an initial prescription, typically for fourteen days or less. After you pick up your prescription medication at the pharmacy, you need to avoid taking any opioids and let yourself start to feel common opioid withdrawal symptoms, including:

- Body aches
- Increased heart rate
- Cravings
- Chills or sweating
- Vomiting or diarrhea
- Inability to sleep
- Anxiety
- Fatigue
- Difficulty focusing

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DR. HOOVER'S OFFICE

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These are normal and indicate that you are likely ready to begin the path to healing. Once you take your first dose of Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv), the symptoms should decrease almost entirely. This is a sublingual medication; to be effective, it must go under your tongue and dissolve. Note that you should leave it under the tongue until it dissolves on its own and that it should never be swallowed or chewed. If there is concern about precipitated withdrawal, contact your provider. Your provider may instruct you to take a very small amount to start for your initial dose and then adjust with additional doses later, as needed.

How Long Does It Take for Suboxone To Work?

So how long does it take for Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) to kick in? Typically, Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) combats withdrawal symptoms and leaves patients feeling better within 30 to 45 minutes. If you don't experience an improvement in withdrawal symptoms, your provider may prescribe a dosage adjustment accordingly. Staying in close contact with your Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) provider's office can relieve some of the anxiety around determining the correct dose of medication for you and in knowing how long it takes for Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) to start working. The approach is unique per individual patient. For your first few weeks on Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv), you and your provider will work through any dosage adjustments. Once you determine the correct dosage, Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) will help curb withdrawal symptoms and reduce the cravings for opioid drugs.

How Long Should You Be on Suboxone?

There is no maximum recommended duration to be on maintenance Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) treatment. Some patients could require treatment for an indefinite period. According to its drug literature, patients should also continue with their daily dose for as long as they are benefiting from it and the use of Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) contributes to the intended treatment goals.

Frequency of Appointments

Treatment for opioid addiction using Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) starts with patients coming in often, then slowly progresses to longer intervals of time as the patient's clinical stability permits. Its product literature states that in determining the prescription length, your provider takes into account your level of psychological and physical stability, the security of your home situation, and other factors might affect your ability to manage supplies of take home medication.

Ideally, you should see be in contact with your provider at least once a week during the first month, though this will depend on your specific needs. Medication will be prescribed in conjunction with the frequency of your visits. Your provider will conduct a regular assessment to determine compliance with your dosing regimen, your progress, and the effectiveness of the treatment plan.

Once a stable dosage has been achieved and your assessment results do not indicate illicit drug use, the follow-up visits could be reduced. Some patients would be asked to visit just once a month if they have made good progress on their regimen.

When To Adjust Suboxone Dosage

Your Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) provider will consider several factors when deciding whether to continue with your current daily dose or to modify it, including:

- the absence of behavioral or medical adverse effects
- the absence of medication toxicity
- abstinence from illicit drug use, as well as problematic benzodiazepine and/or alcohol use
- whether you are deemed responsible to handle medications by yourself
- compliance with all elements of your treatment plan (psychotherapy, recovery-oriented activities, and/or other psychosocial factors as your provider sees fit)

There is no single clear path to recovery from opioid addiction. There will be bumps along the way and relapsing is often expected. With that said, you must have a Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) provider that truly cares for you and that you can trust.

Find Suboxone Treatment in Mississippi at Dr. Hoover's Opiate Treatment Center

If you are searching for a medication assisted treatment program in Mississippi, Dr. Hoover's Opiate Treatment Center is here to help. We take an individualized approach to treating opioid dependence and opioid use disorder so that each patient gets the care and support that suits their needs.

At Dr. Hoover's Opiate Treatment Center, new Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) patients come in after two weeks for a check-in before adjusting to a monthly schedule. We work with you through the challenges and successes of overcoming addiction. At the same time, our clinic is designed to allow you the freedom and independence to live your life while receiving treatment. To learn more about what Dr. Hoover's Opiate Treatment Center offers and how to start Suboxone (buprenorphine–naloxone, Zubsolv) treatment, contact us today.

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Overview Receiving Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) with Buprenorphine (or Suboxone)

Medication assisted treatment (MAT) with buprenorphine is a safe and effective method to help people with an opioid use disorder stop using prescription pain medications, heroin, and other opioids. There are three main phases of MAT: induction (first 1-2 days), stabilization (several weeks), and maintenance (as long as it takes). Before you start treatment, be sure to talk with your health care provider about your plans for treatment.

Patient who agree to participate in the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Treatment Program at this practice must adhere to the policies and procedure of the program. Failure to adhere to the rules will result in dismissal from the program.

Why Suboxone?

Suboxone is an oral medication approved for office-based treatment of opioid use disorder. Suboxone blocks the effects of other opioids. Suboxone is composed of two medications: Buprenorphine and Naloxone. Buprenorphine offers several benefits to people for whom treatment in a methadone clinic is not preferred or is less convenient. Naloxone has poor absorption and is added in order to prevent the misuse of the medication. Treatment with Suboxone has been shown to be safe and effective.

Suboxone is an important part of medication assisted treatment. Patients will work closely with the MAT provider to achieve their goals.

What to Expect

The first step of the MAT Program is to discuss treatment options with your provider. During this appointment, you learn about the pros and cons of medication as well as treatment expectations. You can review the Treatment Agreement and the Consent Form as part of this decision-making process.

Prior to starting treatment, you will have an MAT Overview Appointment. You will receive a physical exam and lab tests. Your MAT health care team will review instructions for Induction and determine a follow-up plan with you for Stabilization and Maintenance.

You may be asked to provide urine, hair, and blood sample or mouth swab at any time during the treatment process. You may be referred to supplementary programs, e.g., counseling, physical therapy.

Induction refers to the first 1-3 days of treatment. You will schedule an appointment for Induction. Prior to that, you will stop using opioids from 16 hours to 48 hours at home or an inpatient location.

You will need to honestly report opioid and other drugs use to your MAT provider. This information will help determine the timing of your first dose.

You will be asked to arrive to your Induction appointment in a moderate state of withdrawal. A nurse or member of your MAT health care team will assess opioid withdrawal symptoms. This is vital for medication to be effective. Precipitated withdrawal can occur if you are not in moderate withdrawal.

You can expect to feel better within 30 - 45 minutes of your first dose. The MAT provider will give additional doses during the induction to find the appropriate regular dose for you. It is important to communicate with your provider and his/her staff how you are feeling.

Induction lasts 1-3 days. You will maintain communication with your provider and care team during this time, either through phone calls or in-person visits. Before you leave the office on Induction Day 1, the MAT provider will likely give you a prescription that will last until your next appointment. Appointments will be made coinciding with refills. The MAT care team will require you to come for follow up visits. The effectiveness and safety of your current dose will be assessed at these visits. You will be asked to provide sample for drug screening - for your safety. You will also be asked to bring your medication with you to each appointment. Failure to provide drug sample or bringing in your medication may result in dismissal from the program.

The second phase in treatment is called Stabilization. This phase may include continuing to find a dose that works for you. You will be asked to notify your provider or his/her staff if at any time you experience triggers or cravings. You will also begin working on treatment goals. After achieving your treatment goals and feeling confident with progress made, your provider may decrease your dose preparing you for the next phase in treatment.

During Stabilization, your MAT provider may refer you to counseling or other supplementary programs, if recommended.

In the third phase, called Maintenance, the MAT provider will monitor your progress. There is no set timeline for how long you will continue treatment. You and your care team will decide when the time is right for you. Research recommends 12-18 months of treatment. Some people receive treatment for longer. When the time comes, your dose will be tapered slowly, minimizing withdrawal symptoms. Finally and most important, if you feel at any time you're at risk of relapse, notify your MAT provider or his/her staff right away. Your MAT treatment team can continue the maintenance if necessary.

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If you have been thinking about seeking treatment for your addiction, you undoubtedly have questions relative to what that treatment entails, especially treatment involving the use of buprenorphine-naloxone. There is a plethora of information available to help prospective patients understand the role of this medication in their journey towards recovery; however, there is little to no information concerning the patient to doctor interaction when it comes to being prescribed buprenorphine-naloxone. As such, this article will go over what you can expect during your initial visit with your provider.

BE PREPARED TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

As you begin your journey toward recovery, your provider will ask a series of questions to help him/her decide if buprenorphine-naloxone is the right course of treatment for you.

Some of these questions may include:

When was the last time you used?

How frequently do you use?

What opiate are you addicted to?

Is your opiate of choice considered long or short-acting?

Before moving forward, it is important that we differentiate treatment protocol for long and short-acting opiates as there is a difference:

Long-acting opiate addiction related to methadone or fentanyl, for example, entail a slower and controlled tapering off period before patients can begin buprenorphine-naloxone treatment.

Short-acting opiate addiction related to heroin, for example, does not require a tapering period. In fact, patients can begin buprenorphine-naloxone treatment right away. However, there is a caveat worth noting, it must be at least 12 hours since their last use.

Regardless of whether you're taking buprenorphine-naloxone to resolve long or short-acting opiate addiction, there is one thing that is universal when it comes to treatment. All buprenorphine-based medications, including buprenorphine-naloxone, are prescribed to be taken at the onset of withdrawal symptoms. Why is that the case, you ask? Well, this helps you wean off your opiate addiction while minimizing your symptoms and cravings. Also, taking it sparingly mitigates the likelihood of becoming addicted, and yes, buprenorphine-naloxone is highly addictive.

WHILE TAKING BUPRENORPHINE-NALOXONE

After consulting with your provider, he or she will make a final determination regarding whether or not buprenorphine-naloxone treatment is a viable course of treatment for you. If it is, your first couple of days will entail getting accustomed to taking the medication; as such, your provider will likely start you off on a prescribed dose. Following this introductory period, your provider will monitor you to confirm the effectiveness of the medication as well as your response to it. This process is critical due to the addictive nature of the medication. During your treatment, your provider may start gradually increasing or decreasing your dosage based on your needs and tolerance.

LONG-TERM BUPRENORPHINE-NALOXONE USE

Once you have successfully progressed through the introductory phase, your provider will prescribe a long-term course of treatment that is designed to permanently end your addictions to opiates. What does this entail, exactly? Well, before answering that question, it is worth noting that treatments can vary from facility to facility as well as from provider to provider. Generally speaking, after the third day of your buprenorphine-naloxone induction, provided your treatment has been stabilized, will reassess how well you are responding to the medication and will recommend dosage changes as needed. After having been on buprenorphine-naloxone for 5 days, the expectation is that you begin to start feeling "normal."

COUNSELING

Although this is the final aspect of your recovery, it is essential in ensuring your path toward recovery is as successful as possible. During counseling, you will be provided with the necessary tools to help prevent relapse and to minimize cravings. For example, you will be taught coping skills that are useful in managing stress and allowing you to better understand what drove you to addiction in the first place. These strategies are invaluable in light of the psychological component of addiction. That said, medically-assisted detox is a great way to remove harmful substances from the body; however, to purge negative thoughts and cravings from the mind, counseling and the support of friends and family is critical. In closing, buprenorphine-naloxone is a great treatment for those looking to recover from addiction, but the journey is a long one. As such, you're encouraged to speak with your provider regarding any concerns that you have and to also get a better understanding of how it can aid in your recovery. Nonetheless, if you're ready to take that first step toward reclaiming your life, you're encouraged to contact us today by phone at 228-497-2652 or by text at 251-274-0686

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