

BUPRENORPHINE MAINTENANCE TREATMENT AGREEMENT

BUPRENORPHINE is an FDA approved medication for treatment of people with heroin or other opioid addictions. BUPRENORPHINE can be used for detoxification or for maintenance therapy. Maintenance therapy can continue as long as medically necessary. There are other treatments for opiate addiction, including methadone, naltrexone, and some treatments without medications that include counseling, groups, and meetings.

If you are dependent on opiates – any opiates – **you should be in as much withdrawal as possible when you take the first dose of BUPRENORPHINE. If you are not in withdrawal, BUPRENORPHINE can cause severe opiate withdrawal (Precipitated withdrawal.** For that reason, you should take the first dose in the office and remain in the office for at least 2 hours. We recommend that you arrange not to drive after your first dose, because some clients get drowsy until the correct dose is determined for them.

Some clients find that it takes several days to get used to the transition from the opiate they had been using to BUPRENORPHINE. During that time, any use of other opiates may cause an increase in symptoms. After you become stabilized on BUPRENORPHINE, it is expected that other opiates will have no effect or very limited effect. Attempts to override the BUPRENORPHINE by taking more opiates could result in an opiate overdose and death. You should not take any other medication without discussing it with the physician first.

Combining BUPRENORPHINE with alcohol or other sedating medications is dangerous. The combination of BUPRENORPHINE with benzodiazepines (such as Valium®, Librium®, Ativan®, Xanax®, Klonopin®, ect.) has resulted in death.

Although sublingual BUPRENORPHINE has not been shown to be liver-damaging, your doctor may obtain liver tests while you are taking BUPRENORPHINE. (This is a blood test.)

Over time, BUPRENORPHINE will cause physical dependence. **If you discontinue it suddenly, you will likely experience withdrawal.**

BUPRENORPHINE tablets must be held under the tongue until they dissolve completely. You will be given your first dose at the clinic, and you will have to wait as it dissolves, and for two hours after it dissolves, to see how you react. **It is important not to talk or swallow until the tablet dissolves.** This may take two to ten minutes depending on the brand. BUPRENORPHINE is then absorbed over the next 30 to 120 minutes from the tissue under the tongue. We recommend that you not to drink or eat for 30 minutes after taking Buprenorphine.

BUPRENORPHINE will not be absorbed from the stomach if it is swallowed. **If you swallow the tablet, you will not have the important benefits of the medication, and it may not relieve your withdrawal.**



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BUPRENORPHINE is expensive like most medications, but generic and affordable substitutes are available. If you have healthcare coverage, our office staff can try to help you get coverage for your meds in the event that your insurance company requests a PA (Prior Authorization) or a yearly renewal. **Remember that your office fees should always be kept CURRENT.**

It is extremely dangerous to self-administer non-prescribed benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants (including alcohol) while taking BUPRENORPHINE. Clients prescribed benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants should be cautioned to use them only as directed by their physician.

BUPRENORPHINE is a partial opiate agonist that can be a target for people who abuse prescription medication or street drugs. Clients should be cautioned to keep their BUPRENORPHINE in a safe and secure place to protect against theft. Mathers Clinic will require a police report and case number in the event of theft of your medication in order to approve for an early refill. Please be aware that your insurance company may not pay for any early refills of your medication.

Clients need to keep BUPRENORPHINE in a secure place, out of sight and reach of children. Accidental or deliberate ingestion by a child may cause respiratory depression that can result in death. Clients are advised that if a child is exposed to BUPRENORPHINE, medical attention should be sought IMMEDIATELY.

Clients should never give BUPRENORPHINE to anyone else. Due to its respiratory depression it can cause harm and/or death to others.

Selling or giving away BUPRENORPHINE IS AGAINST THE LAW and the penalties are SEVERE.

Do not change the dose of BUPRENORPHINE without consulting your physician. Changing your dose by taking more will be a cause for termination of services. These are controlled substances misuse or abuse will not be encouraged and result in termination from our clinic.

Like other opioids, BUPRENORPHINE may produce orthostatic hypotension in ambulatory individuals.

If you are using an herbal preparation or prescribed over the counter medication, please inform your physician.

Women, who are pregnant or are planning to become pregnant, should consult their physician regarding the possible effects of BUPRENORPHINE on the fetus. Present knowledge is that BUPRENORPHINE without Naloxone is safer during pregnancy. Any stress during pregnancy, such as withdrawal symptoms can cause distress to the fetus and therefore clients should



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discuss any medication changes with their MD. You must inform your gynecologist about being on BUPRENORPHINE as the baby will go through withdrawal symptoms after birth which can be managed by the neonatologist.

Clients need to inform their family members or significant others that they are taking BUPRENORPHINE so that in the event of an emergency the treating physicians or emergency room department staff are informed that the client is being treated with BUPRENORPHINE. The treating physicians would use NON-OPIATE NARCOTICS, for your pain management, if necessary. You can ask our staff about a MEDICAL ALERT CARD you can keep in your wallet.

To properly dispose of BUPRENORPHINE when no longer needed, please bring it to your local police department.

In addition to taking Buprenorphine medication you will be expected to attend a recovery program which your physician will discuss with you.

Alternatives to BUPRENORPHINE

- **Support Groups** - Mathers Recovery offers BUPRENORPHINE support group, a 12 week program that educates about cravings, triggers, and relapses.
- **Intensive Out Patient (IOP) Programs** - Mathers Recovery offers an IOP Program in our McHenry County locations (and will be added to our other locations at a later date). Our IOP program consists of 9 hours a week of group, individual and family therapy for 12 weeks followed by a support group for 12 weeks.
- **Hospitalization** – Rarely clients may need expensive hospital based alcohol and substance abuse treatment that can provide detoxification and rehabilitation that may not be specific to opioid misuse and abuse. Mathers Recovery offers office based detoxification with a BUPRENORPHINE Induction, which is about 2-3 hours of office based treatment which is clinically safe.
- **Outpatient Drug Abuse Treatment** – Some facilities may provide individual and group therapy which may emphasize treatment that does not include maintenance on BUPRENORPHINE or other medications.
- **Other forms of opioid maintenance therapy:**
 - **Methadone Maintenance**—Also available at Mathers Recovery for select clients
 - **(VIVITROL) Naltrexone injections** – A medication that blocks the effects of opioids, but has no opioid effects of its own. Mathers Recovery offers this program to select clients.



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I have read the information provided to me and agree to treatment administered to me by my physician for, but not limited to: drug screens, financial responsibility, and therapeutic treatment.

Signature

Date

Printed Name

You can finally beat your opioid addiction with Mathers Recovery.

Recovery is never easy. There is no miracle cure. It takes a **desire** on your part, **effort, patience,** and **the help of compassionate caregivers** to keep you on your road to recovery. Unlike traditional recovery centers and rehab programs, Mathers Recovery specializes in opioid addiction treatment in an outpatient setting, with a program designed to treat the whole person, not just the addiction.

You get the treatment you need while continuing to live your life. Recovery happens outside the treatment center, privately and confidentially.



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