



# MIH - Buprenorphine

**Assess Opioid Withdrawal Signs and Symptoms:**

**Patient MUST present with  $\geq 2$  objective signs to be considered for bup treatment**

**Objective Signs:**

- Tachycardia
- Diaphoresis
- Restlessness and/or agitation
- Dilated pupils
- Rhinorrhea or lacrimation
- Vomiting, diarrhea
- Yawning
- Piloerection

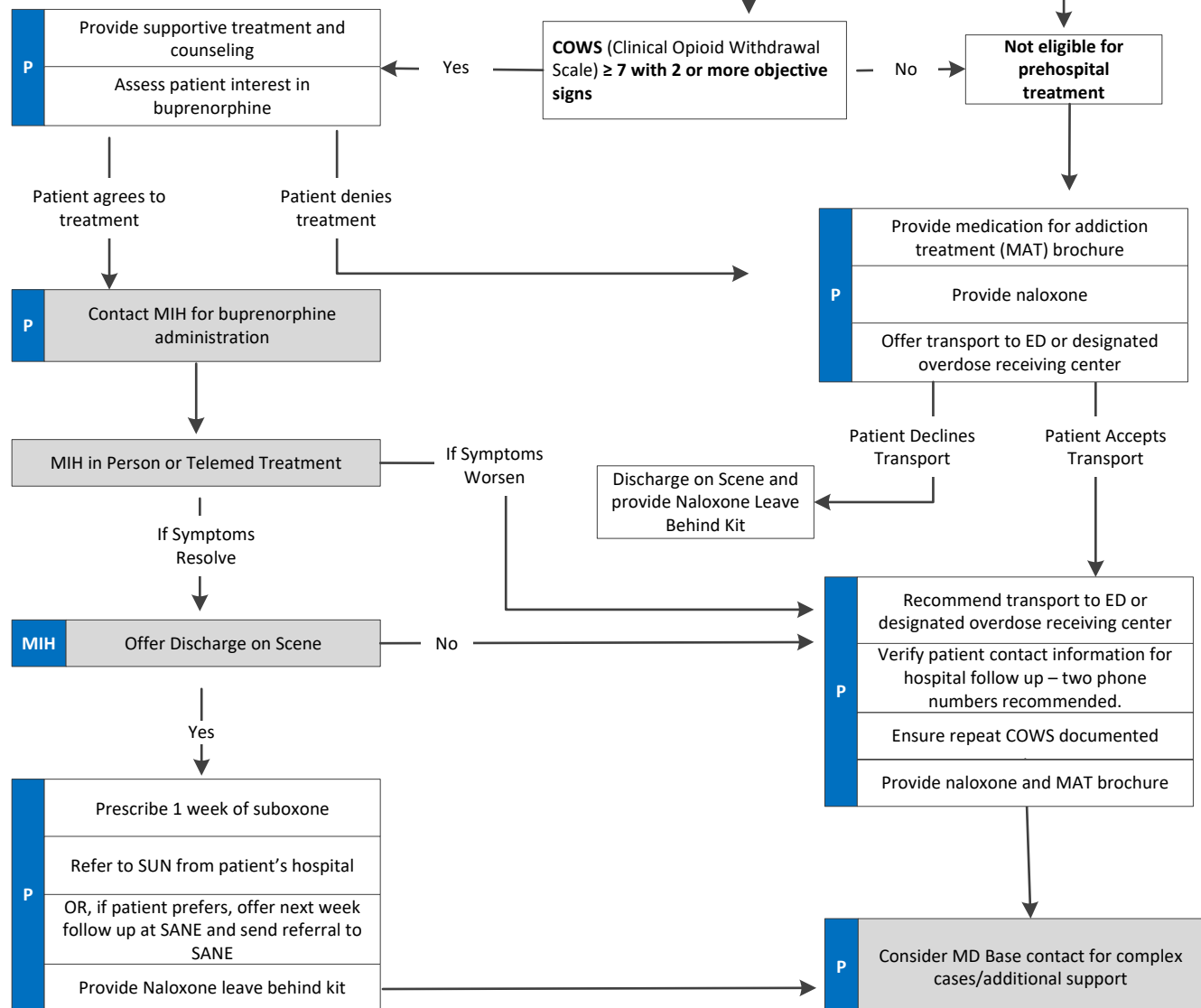
**Subjective Symptoms:**

- Nausea
- Stomach / abdominal cramps
- Body aches
- Achy bones / joints
- Restlessness
- Hot and Cold
- Nasal congestion

Confirm Opioid withdrawal, then assess for exclusion criteria

**Assess for Exclusion Criteria:**

- Under 16 years of age
- Any methadone use within last 10 days
- Altered mental status and unable to give consent
- Severe medical illness (sepsis, respiratory distress, etc.)
- Current intoxication or recent use of benzodiazepine, alcohol, or other intoxicants suspected
- No clinical opioid use disorder symptoms
- Unable to comprehend potential risks and benefits for any reason
- Not a candidate for buprenorphine treatment for any reason

**Notes: MIH in Person or Telemed Treatment:**

1. Verify COWS and exclusion criteria
2. Titrate suboxone to eliminate withdrawal symptoms with 8 mg every 20 min as needed for a maximum of 24 mg





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EMS Medical Director:

Signature on File

EMS Administrator:

Signature on File

## COWS Wesson & Ling, J Psychoactive Drugs. 2003 Apr-Jun;35(2):253-9. Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale

Resting Pulse Rate: _____ beats/minute <i>Measured after patient is sitting or lying for one minute</i> 0 Pulse rate 80 or below 1 Pulse rate 81-100 2 Pulse rate 101-120 4 Pulse rate greater than 120	GI Upset: over last 1/2 hour 0 No GI symptoms 1 Stomach cramps 2 Nausea or loose stool 3 Vomiting or diarrhea 5 Multiple episodes of diarrhea or vomiting
Sweating: over past 1/2 hour not accounted for by room temperature or patient activity: 0 No report of chills or flushing 1 Subjective report of chills or flushing 2 Flushed or observable moistness on face 3 Beads of sweat on brow or face 4 Sweat streaming off face	Tremor observation of outstretched hands 0 No tremor 1 Tremor can be felt, but not observed 2 Slight tremor observable 4 Gross tremor or muscle twitching
Restlessness Observation during assessment 0 Able to sit still 1 Reports difficulty sitting still, but is able to do so 3 Frequent shifting or extraneous movements of legs/arms 5 Unable to sit still for more than a few seconds	Yawning Observation during assessment 0 No yawning 1 Yawning once or twice during assessment 2 Yawning three or more times during assessment 4 Yawning several times/minute
Pupil size 0 Pupils pinned or normal size for room light 1 Pupils possibly larger than normal for room light 2 Pupils moderately dilated 5 Pupils so dilated that only the rim of the iris is visible	Anxiety or irritability 0 None 1 Patient reports increasing irritability or anxiousness 2 Patient obviously irritable anxious 4 Patient so irritable or anxious that participation in the assessment is difficult
Bone or Joint aches If patient was having pain previously, only the additional component attributed to opiates withdrawal is scored 0 Not present 1 Mild diffuse discomfort 2 Patient reports severe diffuse aching of joints/ muscles 4 Patient is rubbing joints or muscles and is unable to sit still because of discomfort	Gooseflesh skin 0 Skin is smooth 3 Piloerection of skin can be felt or hairs standing up on arms 5 Prominent piloerection
Runny nose or tearing Not accounted for by cold symptoms or allergies 0 Not present 1 Nasal stuffiness or unusually moist eyes 2 Nose running or tearing 4 Nose constantly running or tears streaming down cheeks	Total Score _____ The total score is the sum of all 11 items Initials of person completing Assessment: _____

Score: 5-12 mild; 13-24 moderate; 25-36 moderately severe; more than 36 = severe withdrawal

### Pearls

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## Treatment Guideline 5057