



# COOPER EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT

## BUPRENORPHINE DISCHARGE INSTRUCTIONS

### **BUPEFIRST-ED**

### **BUPRENORPHINE**

#### **WHAT IS BUPRENORPHINE?**

Buprenorphine is a medication used to treat opioid addiction including addiction to heroin and prescription opioids. It comes in several forms, the most common being Suboxone.

Buprenorphine can treat withdrawal and reduce cravings by working on the same opioid receptors in the brain that were affected when using the opioids. It will make you feel normal, without a high and is not the same as substituting one addiction for another.

Buprenorphine if taken correctly can help lead to a healthy and productive life. It can help stabilize your brain while you focus on your own recovery, social functioning and improve your quality of life. There is no timeline for how long buprenorphine must be prescribed. Some people may have to take it life-long.

You may have received a prescription for buprenorphine from the emergency department. It usually comes in strips or tablets combined with naloxone. Please read the administration instructions carefully. You must be in withdrawal when you start taking the suboxone, otherwise you can experience “precipitated withdrawal,” a severe form of withdrawal.

You will have been given an appointment at a follow up clinic today. Please make sure you follow up on the appointment day. Bring your insurance information and prescription bottle. Most clinics will also provide or link you with behavioral health to help facilitate your care.

We are open 24 hours a day. Please return if you feel that you need further care

**BUPEFIRST  
ED**

**COOPER EMERGENCY  
DEPARTMENT**

In the case of an Emergency – shallow breathing or difficulty waking someone up:

1. Call 911
2. Give the naloxone. Spray it into the nostrils as directed. Repeat if there is no response in 1-2 minutes.
3. Lay the person on their side and waiting for EMS to get there

**ASK YOUR DOCTOR TO PRESCRIBE NALOXONE TO YOU!**

### **Addiction Treatment Resources in New Jersey**

For general information on addiction treatment service options, call the **New Jersey Addiction Hotline (IME) at (844) 276-2777**. Calls are answered 24/7. IME can help guide you to the right program for you.

**Alcoholics Anonymous** 856-486-4444

**Narcotics Anonymous** 800-992-0401

Bring a **photo ID and insurance card** to your initial appointment at your treatment program. If you do not have a photo ID, some places will accept another form of ID, such as a birth certificate or social security card, instead.