

THE SUBOXONE TREATMENT PROGRAM

The Suboxone Treatment Program

Suboxone is a medication for the treatment of addiction to opiate painkillers and street opiate drugs including heroin. The primary active ingredient in Suboxone is buprenorphine.

The Department of Alcohol & Drug Services Suboxone Treatment Program is the County's first to use Suboxone for the treatment of prescription pain medication dependence, heroin addiction, and methadone or other opioid dependence.

Benefits of Suboxone

- **Milder withdrawal and detoxification process.**
- **Long lasting.** Once maintained, the frequency of prescription is determined by the physician and can vary from weekly to monthly, depending on the patient's needs.
- **Safer** than traditional prescription opiates; Suboxone alone is unlikely to result in an overdose.
- **Reduced health risks**, especially for those currently injecting drugs.
- **Treats withdrawal and cravings**, and blocks effect of other opiates so patients can fully participate in their recovery process
- **Greater program flexibility** compared to traditional requirements of methadone treatment programs

Private

Unlike methadone and other clinics, the Suboxone Treatment Program is office-based. Our treatment team has special expertise in helping to transition patients with opioid dependence to Suboxone in the privacy and convenience of our medical offices. We can also arrange for patients to be maintained by their referring physician, or another certified physician in the community, according to their needs.

Professional

The Suboxone Treatment Program team consists of medical doctors and clinicians, all of whom have expertise in dealing with opioid dependence and the transition to Suboxone. The team provides support for patients throughout all phases of treatment. The Program uses state-of-the-art comprehensive and well-tested methods.

Personalized

The Program specializes in the use of Suboxone for several types of patients, including those requiring:

- Detoxification from opiate dependence
- Maintenance medication for opiate addiction

Transfer and stabilization phase takes place after a thorough evaluation by our team and consultation with a referring physician, if any.

Eligibility

Suboxone is an appropriate treatment for those dependent on opiates, either illicit heroin, methadone or prescription drugs.

Can Patients on Methadone Switch to Suboxone?

In general, we do not recommend switching from a treatment if it is working well because transitions can be destabilizing. However, each situation is different. Consult with the clinic doctor to see if switching medications is best for you.

Referrals

Referrals can be made by healthcare professionals, including psychiatrists, internists, nurses, psychotherapists, and addiction specialists. Potential patients can also call the program directly and schedule an evaluation.

Patients will be:

- Inducted onto Suboxone
- Stabilized on Suboxone
- Referred to their providers, or assisted in finding one for ancillary support including recovery counseling

Patients can also be maintained at the program.

Payment Methods

We accept money orders and cashier's checks as well as Medi-Cal, Valley Health Plan and Valley Care health insurance coverage. If you have other health insurance, you will be required to pay for your services prior to treatment by money order or cashier's check only. You may request a monthly/quarterly statement of services to submit to your insurance company for reimbursement. You may be eligible for a temporary reduced fee based on your ability to pay. Sufficient proof of income/no income is required to determine if you are eligible for a reduced fee.

Contact Information

To make a referral or for more information about the program, please call: Christine Gibbins at (408) 885-5402. Monday-Friday, 9am to 3pm