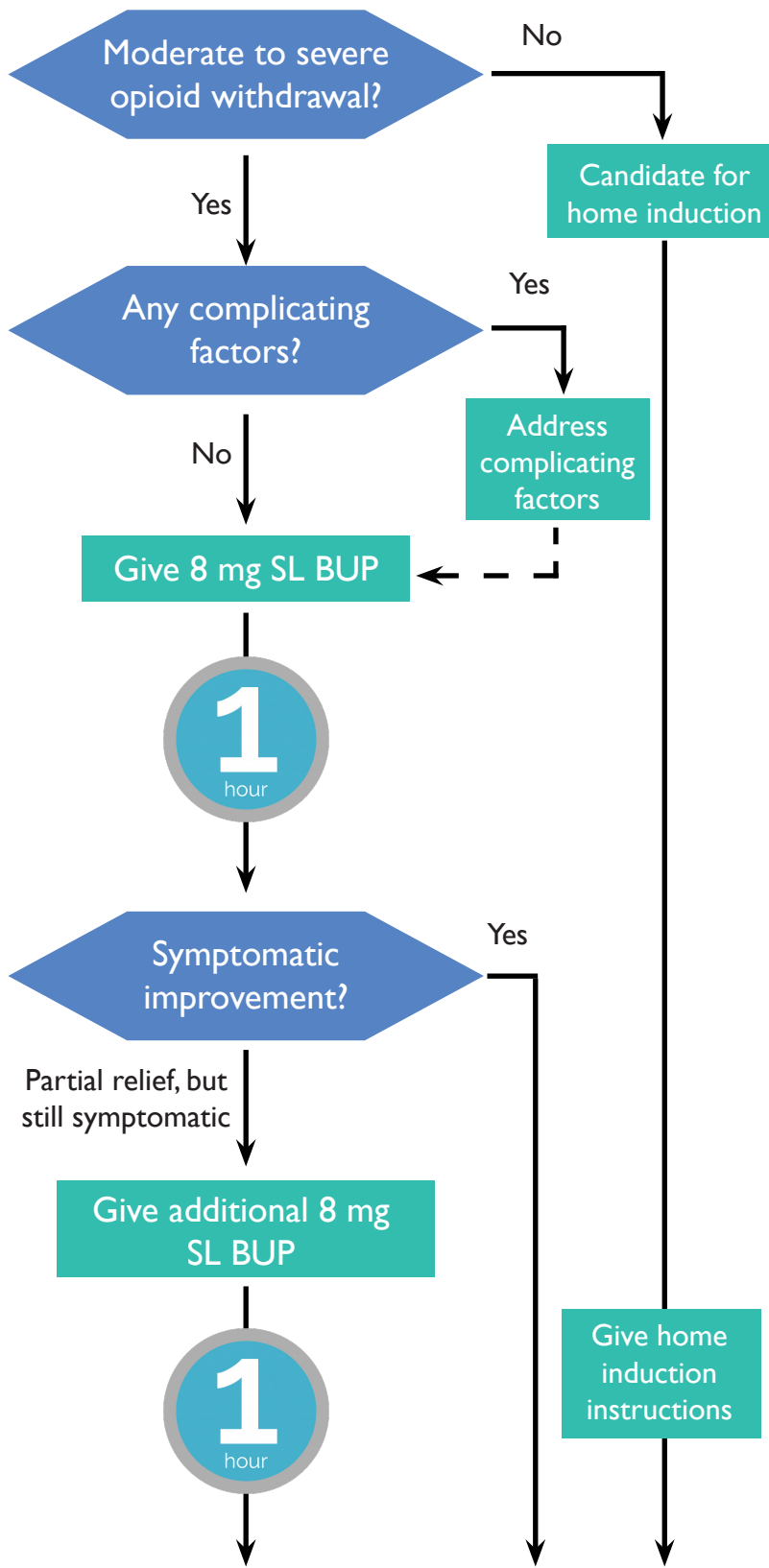


# Buprenorphine Algorithm



**Discharge with:**

1. Rx: buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) 16mg once a day for 3 days (if waived)
2. Take-home IN Naloxone
3. Ambulatory referral to Lifespan Recovery Center

**Questions?**

Call the BEM ED buprenorphine on-call provider:

**(401) 830-0767**

For use in adult ED patients with moderate to severe opioid use disorder (OUD) being discharged

- Moderate to severe OUD = daily opioid use and onset of withdrawal when opioids are not used

**MODERATE TO SEVERE OPIOID WITHDRAWAL**

- Use clinical judgment or the [Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale \(COWS\)](#)
- Can give buprenorphine if [COWS](#) ≥ 8 with 1 objective sign of withdrawal
- Document: Which opioid used, last time used

**COMPLICATING FACTORS**

DO NOT give buprenorphine if patient:

- Has altered mental status or is intoxicated
- Is medically unstable
- Is on methadone

Talk to on-call Brown EM Buprenorphine provider if:

- Has OUD but withdrawal inconsistent or borderline

Pregnant or breastfeeding patients should be referred to the [WIH Moms MATTER clinic](#): 401-430-2700.

Provide patient name & contact info, clinic case manager will call the patient within 24h

**BUPRENORPHINE DOSING**

- Redose buprenorphine if patients improved after first dose but still having withdrawal symptoms
  - Target dose 8-16mg, sufficient for most
  - If needs more, max dose in ED 32mg

**PRECIPITATED WITHDRAWAL**

- Decreased risk with longer time since last opioid use and greater withdrawal symptoms
- Treat with additional buprenorphine

**REFERRAL TO TREATMENT:**

- If waived, prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone 16mg a day for 3 days
- Refer patients for an appointment in 24-48h
  - Ambulatory Referral to [Lifespan Recovery Center](#)
  - See treatment center list
- If not waived, and no next day appointment, patient can come back to ED next day for additional dose

**EPIC:**

- Use Naloxone Order Set
  - Includes orders for IN Naloxone and ambulatory referral to [Lifespan Recovery Center](#)
- Check PDMP (required for all controlled substances)

In chart, use (if applicable):

- Overdose dotphrase: .uemfopioid
- Buprenorphine dotphrase: .bembupnote

Patient Instructions

- Buprenorphine patient instructions: .bembupdc
- Home induction discharge instructions (if applicable)

**RESOURCES:**

- [ACEP BUPE](#): <https://www.acep.org/patient-care/bupe/>
- [UCSF Substance Use Warmline](#): 855-300-3595, 10 am – 6 pm EST Monday - Friday

Adapted with permission from:

