

## Patient Consent for Treatment with Buprenorphine (Subutex or Suboxone)

Name of Patient \_\_\_\_\_

You are starting our Milagro program for expecting mothers. In the program, we may prescribe buprenorphine (Subutex or Suboxone) to help you avoid using heroin or other drugs. Buprenorphine lowers the risks to your baby compared to these other drugs. But it's important to use it right and follow the program. If you use buprenorphine the **wrong** way, you or your baby could get sick. Using buprenorphine with some illegal or prescription medicines can lead to overdose, which can even cause death.

This paper tells you the rules for getting buprenorphine through our program. It also explains the risks. Please ask questions to be sure you understand it all **before** you sign this paper.

### Who can get buprenorphine?

We only give buprenorphine to women in our Milagro program. The program includes:

- medical care while you are pregnant (prenatal care)
- substance abuse counseling
- having your baby at UNM hospital
- watching your baby in the hospital for at least 4 days after birth
- helping you with housing, food, counseling and other kinds of services if you need them

If you live in or near Albuquerque, you must get your care in the Milagro program. If you live outside the Albuquerque area, you may transfer to a treatment program closer to you if one is available. You will get your buprenorphine in the program near you.

### Can I keep getting buprenorphine after I have my baby?

After your baby is born, you can join our sister program, FOCUS. FOCUS care can include buprenorphine treatment for you, as well as medical care for your baby. We strongly recommend that you join FOCUS after having your baby.

### How do I sign up to get buprenorphine?

You must agree to all the program rules to get buprenorphine. Write your initials next to each line on the next 3 pages if you agree. Ask questions if there's anything you don't understand. **You must initial all the lines and sign this paper before you can get buprenorphine.**

Please read all of the statements below and put your initials on the line if you agree. Do you have any questions about what they mean? It's important to ask before you sign your initials.

**I agree to come to all my appointments.**

1. \_\_\_\_\_ I will go to one-on-one drug counseling as often as my doctor tells me. If I don't meet with my drug counselor, the clinic may stop giving me buprenorphine. The goal of my treatment with buprenorphine is to **not** abuse drugs.
2. \_\_\_\_\_ I will take the dose my doctor tells me to. If I think I need a higher or lower dose, I will call the clinic. I will ask for an appointment to change my dose.
3. \_\_\_\_\_ The clinic will give me just enough pills to last me from visit to visit. I know I **can't** get refills on the phone if I run out of pills early, even if I lose them.
4. \_\_\_\_\_ I will come to all my appointments, except in an emergency.
5. \_\_\_\_\_ If I miss a visit, I may have to wait until my next scheduled visit to get more buprenorphine. I will call the clinic as soon as possible if I miss a visit.
6. \_\_\_\_\_ I will give samples of my pee (urine) when my doctor asks for them.

**I agree to keep my buprenorphine away from others.**

7. \_\_\_\_\_ I need to keep my medicines in a safe place. I know that the clinic will **not** replace lost medicine, no matter what happened.
8. \_\_\_\_\_ I will **not** let anyone else take my buprenorphine. I will **not** sell, share, or give any of my medicine away.
9. \_\_\_\_\_ I will keep my buprenorphine in a lock box at all times. I understand that even a tiny bit of buprenorphine can **kill** a child.
10. \_\_\_\_\_ If I think a child has put a pill in their mouth, I will call 911. I will call 911 even if the child doesn't act sick. I will call 911 even if I get the pill out of the child's mouth.

**I agree to tell my doctor about any other medicines I take.**

11. \_\_\_\_\_ I will tell my doctor about all drugs I am taking, prescribed or not prescribed. I will check with my doctor before I use any other medicines.
12. \_\_\_\_\_ I know that I could overdose and die if I take other drugs along with buprenorphine. These drugs are especially dangerous: benzos, Xanax, Valium, Ativan, Klonopin, Librium.
13. \_\_\_\_\_ I know that if I relapse after being on buprenorphine, I have a higher risk of overdosing and dying. To prevent overdose, I need to use very small doses of heroin or pain pills. I need to take things slowly until I learn what my body can handle.

**I know the good points and risks of taking buprenorphine.**

- 14. \_\_\_\_\_ I should take buprenorphine as long as I need to. This will help keep me off other drugs.
- 15. \_\_\_\_\_ Buprenorphine is an opioid. I will feel sick and have withdrawal if I stop taking it.
- 16. \_\_\_\_\_ Babies have fewer withdrawal symptoms after birth from buprenorphine compared to methadone. But buprenorphine is a newer medicine, so doctors don't know as much about its long-term effects on babies.
- 17. \_\_\_\_\_ Going through withdrawal can hurt my unborn baby. I understand that I could deliver early or even lose my baby if I go through bad withdrawal while pregnant. Going through withdrawal more than once while pregnant is very risky, too. That's why I should stay on buprenorphine or methadone all through my pregnancy. The other choice for women addicted to opioids in pregnancy is working with a doctor to use less and less. (This is called medically supervised withdrawal.) Experts do not recommend this because the risk of going back to abusing opioids (relapse) during pregnancy is very high. In addition, not all experts agree that withdrawal is safe.
- 18. \_\_\_\_\_ Babies exposed to drugs like heroin, pain pills, methadone, or buprenorphine can have withdrawal symptoms after birth. They sometimes need to be treated in the hospital. I know my baby must stay in the hospital for at least 4 days (96 hours) after birth. The hospital staff will watch my baby for signs of withdrawal during this time. If my baby has withdrawal symptoms, he or she may need to stay in the hospital for several days or weeks.
- 19. \_\_\_\_\_ Breastfeeding is safe while I am taking buprenorphine, as long I don't take any other drugs. Breastfed babies have fewer withdrawal symptoms than bottle-fed babies.

**I understand and will follow the program.**

- 20. \_\_\_\_\_ If I break these rules, the clinic may stop giving me buprenorphine. They will still give me prenatal care. My doctor will help me look for a better drug treatment plan. This may mean going to another clinic for daily doses of buprenorphine or methadone.
- 21. \_\_\_\_\_ I have read and understand these details about treatment with buprenorphine. I want to be treated with this drug.

Patient sign here: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Provider obtaining consent sign here: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_