



**INLAND COUNTIES
EMERGENCY MEDICAL AGENCY
POLICY AND PROTOCOL MANUAL**

Reference No. 10050
Effective Date: 07/01/25
Supersedes: 05/01/24
Page 1 of 2

OPIOID WITHDRAWAL

I. FIELD ASSESSMENT/TREATMENT INDICATORS

- Patient exhibiting signs/symptoms of possible opioid withdrawal characterized by tachycardia, gastrointestinal distress, hot and cold flashes, poor concentration, diaphoresis, rhinorrhea, restlessness, piloerection, and/or yawning.

II. EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Under 16 years of age
- Any methadone use within the last 10 days
- Altered mental status and unable to give consent
- Severe medical illness (sepsis, respiratory distress, etc.)
- Recent benzodiazepine, alcohol, or intoxicants suspected within 24 hours
- Unable to comprehend potential risks and benefits for any reason
- Not a candidate for buprenorphine maintenance treatment for any reason

III. BLS INTERVENTIONS

- Oxygen therapy as clinically indicated.
- If patient exhibiting signs/symptoms of possible altered level of consciousness refer to ICEMA Reference #14060-Altered Level of Consciousness/Seizure-Adult
- Assess and document response to therapy.

IV. LIMITED ALS (LALS) INTERVENTIONS

- Perform activities identified in the BLS interventions.
- Obtain vascular access.

V. ALS INTERVENTIONS

Note: Administration of Buprenorphine-Naloxone (Suboxone) is authorized for transport providers and approved non-transport providers.

- Perform activities identified in the BLS and LALS interventions.
- Place on cardiac monitor and obtain a 12-lead ECG as clinical indicated.
- Use Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale (COWS ≥ 8) assessment tool to determine if patient meets criteria for treatment.
- Provide counseling and assess patient interest in buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®).

- Administer buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) per ICEMA Reference #11010 – Medication – Standard Orders. (16 mg/ 4mg buprenorphine-naloxone SL).
- Reassess patient after 10 minutes.
- If symptoms worsen or persist, administer second dose buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) per ICEMA Reference #11010 – Medication – Standard Orders (8mg/2mg buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone®) SL to max dose 24 mg/ 6mg).
- Transport to a California Bridge Hospital and inform patient that the hospital navigator will initiate contact within 72 hours to offer additional treatment.
- If patient declines transport, provide MAT information, coaching, and brochure.
- Provide Leave Behind Naloxone kit and education if available.

V. REFERENCES

<u>Number</u>	<u>Name</u>
11010	Medication - Standard Order
14060	Altered Level of Consciousness/Seizures-Adult