

---

## Home Induction: Day One

1. Provide patients with oral and written instructions for dosing and timing
2. Choose an induction day, and stop using opioids the day before.
3. Tell the patient:
  - “When the Subjective Opiate Withdrawal Scale (SOWS) score is above 17 and you have had an appropriate time window since last opioid use, you are ready for first induction dose.”
  - Subjective Opiate Withdrawal Scale (SOWS):
  - Start with 2 mg (1 tablet). Keep the tablet under your tongue until it fully dissolves. Avoid swallowing, eating, talking, drinking and smoking at this time.”
  - “If you are not feeling better within 1-2 hours, take another 1 or 2 tablets. We expect you to feel more and more well after each dose.”
  - “Call the clinic after you've taken your second dose. You may take another 2 to 3 tablets during the first day, after speaking with the doctor or nurse on the phone.”
  - “If you feel worse after taking either your first or second dose, call the clinic immediately and speak with the doctor or nurse for instructions. You may need to take other medications to feel better or can come into the clinic.”
4. Remind the patient:
  - Do NOT take buprenorphine/naloxone before your SOWS score is higher than 17.
  - Do NOT take all the buprenorphine/naloxone doses at once.
  - Call the clinic to check in once you have taken your first 2 doses.
  - Do NOT take any alcohol or other sedative medication with buprenorphine/naloxone unless the doctor instructed you otherwise.
5. Provide patient with a buprenorphine/naloxone prescription
  - Instructions: Take 2 mg SL when SOWS  $\geq$  17, take 2 mg SL 1-2 hours post first dose PRN. Max dose 12 mg.
  - Dispense 6 tablets of 2mg/0.5mg.
6. Provide the patient with other medications in case of precipitated withdrawal or to use prior to induction
  - Ibuprofen 400 TID x 3 doses, clonidine 0.1 mg TID x 3 doses
7. Set up a follow up appointment within 1-2 days of home induction

---

## Home Induction: Day Two

1. For a patient who has never started buprenorphine/naloxone before:

- For Day 2, you want the patient to take the total dose of day 1, then continue to titrate up to a therapeutic dose. The goal dose is 16mg.

2. Often, it can work well to have the patient come in to your office, or have a phone call with you on the morning of day 2 of their induction. You can ask them what their total dose for day 1 was, and continue to titrate up by 4 - 8mg per day.

For example, you could write two prescriptions on the day you plan the home induction. One for the home induction carry doses of 2mg x 6 tabs, then for their final dose to start the next day. The patient needs to be sure of the date they will start their home induction in order to be able to write the second prescription with the correct date range.

3. First prescription:

- Oct 11 - 2mg x 6 tabs for take home induction

4. Second prescription:

- Oct 12 - 18th 16mg SL DWI x 7 days