

ED OBSERVATION UNIT:

Suboxone Micro-Induction Observation Pathway

NYC H+H KINGS COUNTY HOSPITAL CENTER

General Observation Guidelines apply for all ED observation patients.

INCLUSION CRITERIA

- Patient with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) who is motivated to start medication-assisted treatment (MAT) with buprenorphine
 - Patients may be using street opioids (heroin, fentanyl) or prescription opioids (morphine, oxycodone, hydromorphone, methadone)
- Not yet in withdrawal sufficient for a standard/macro buprenorphine induction (patient has a COWS < 10) and/or patient had an overdose and received Narcan greater than one hour ago

OR

- Patient with OUD in significant opioid withdrawal that has been successfully initiated on buprenorphine in the ED using a macro-induction protocol but requires further social work and/or CATCH team involvement to connect with ongoing treatment

AND

- Meets General Observation Criteria
- Is willing to stay on the ED Observation service for 2-3 days for the micro-induction AND/OR is willing to stay up to 2 days for social work and CATCH team assessment

EXCLUSION CRITERIA

- Methadone dose > 100mg
- COWS ≥ 10 (standard or “macro” induction preferred)
- Concurrent alcohol withdrawal
- Requires a 1:1 for violent/aggressive behavior
- Requires sedation (HPD call, manual restraint, chemical sedation) for agitation in the ER
- Evidence of decompensated or poorly controlled psychiatric illness
- Concomitant acute illness that requires inpatient admission

Last updated 05/11/2023

*Reviewed by Dr. Doukas, Mark,
Feuerbach, and Lavadera*

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INTERVENTIONS

CATCH Consult during working hours of Monday-Friday 8am-8pm OR epic chat “KC Addiction Medicine Team” during off hours to help with determining patient suitability and answer any questions.

Rapid Micro-Induction Protocol – Belbuca:

- Day One:
 - Belbuca 150 mcg q4 Hours for 6 doses
 - If/when the patient develops symptoms of opioid withdrawal, administer the patient’s usual methadone dose OR 20 mg orally with one additional 20 mg dose as needed as directed by CATCH team
- Day Two:
 - Belbuca 450 mcg q4 Hours for 6 doses
 - Administer accepted methadone dose from day 1 if indicated
- Day Three:
 - **Discontinue** Belbuca
 - Suboxone 2mg q4 hours for 6 doses
 - Administer accepted methadone dose from day 1 if indicated
 - Work with CATCH team for discharge planning prior to 72-hour mark (suboxone maintenance prescription)

CATCH Team evaluation

- If the patient has already been successfully initiated on buprenorphine but has not been evaluated by the CATCH team and social work, the observation team will initiate a maintenance dose of buprenorphine (consider 8 mg tid) and place a CATCH consult and Social Work consult

Additional Interventions

- Prioritize patient movement from ER holding area to observation unit
- Ensure patient property appropriately vouchered and secured per hospital policy and procedure manual
- Social Work consult
- IV Hydration as needed
- Adjunctive medications for mild withdrawal as needed (eg Ondansetron, Tylenol, Ibuprofen)
- PRN narcan order for altered mental status and/or respiratory rate less than 8

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DISPOSITION

Successful micro-induction, Discharged

- Prescription for suboxone 8 mg films
- **DISCONTINUE Methadone**
- Social work ensures safe discharge to home / shelter
- Ambulatory Referral to chemical dependency clinic
- Narcan Kit offered / given to patient
- Follow-up with R Building as walk-in to Central Intake Unit (CIU) Monday-Friday 8am-3pm
OR at appointment given by CATCH team

Unsuccessful micro-induction, Discharged

- Unable to successfully complete micro-induction and wishes to leave
- Social support with SW / CATCH Team
- Narcan Kit offered / given to patient
- Follow-up with R Building as walk-in to Central Intake Unit (CIU) Monday-Friday 8am-4pm

Successful macro-induction in ED and connected with CATCH team, Discharged

- Prescription for suboxone 8mg films
- Social work ensures safe discharge to home / shelter
- Ambulatory Referral to chemical dependency clinic
- Narcan Kit offered / given to patient
- Follow-up with R Building as walk-in to Central Intake Unit (CIU) Monday-Friday 8am-3pm
OR at appointment given by CATCH team

Admission

- Requires more than 72 hours to complete micro-induction
 - Continue induction until stable for Suboxone
- Precipitates withdrawal with COWS ≥ 10 requiring more aggressive interventions

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Appendix

a. Rapid Micro-dosing Initiation Protocol – Belbuca®:

Day	Belbuca	Suboxone	Total Daily Dose of Belbuca	Maximum Suboxone Equivalent	Full Agonist
1	150 mcg q4h	0	900 mcg	1.8 mg	Continue
2	450 mcg q4h	0	2.7 mg	5.4 mg	Continue
3	STOP Belbuca	2 mg q4	N/A	12 mg	Continue
4	0	Titrate as needed	N/A	12 – 24 mg	STOP

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