



Rapid Procedure

Example Dosing and COWS Schedule for Routine Buprenorphine Induction

	0600	0700	0800	0900	1000	1100	1200	1300	1400	1500	1600	1700	1800	1900	2000	2100	2200	2300	0000	0100	0200	0300	0400	0500
<b>VITALS</b>				X				X				X				X								
<b>COWS</b>					X	X	X		X															
<b>MEDICATIONS</b>																								
1st buprenorphine dose <sup>1</sup>					2 mg																			
PRN buprenorphine dose <sup>2</sup>						2 mg	2 mg																	
clonidine 0.2 mg q4h for opioid withdrawal (hold for sBP<90 or HR<50) MDD=1.2 mg				0.2 mg				0.2 mg					0.2 mg								X			
clonazepam 1 mg q6h for anxiety/restlessness (hold for sedation) MDD=4 mg				1 mg						1 mg													X	
prochlorperazine 10mg q24h for nausea/vomiting				10 mg																				
PRN prochlorperazine 10 mg q8h for nausea/vomiting													10 mg											
PRN aluminum hydroxide/magnesium hydroxide (Maalox) 30 ml q4h for dyspepsia													30 ml											
PRN loperamide 4 mg for diarrhea																								
PRN ibuprofen 600 mg q8h for muscle aches								600 mg																
nicotine patch 21 mg qd				21 mg																				
PRN nicotine gum 2 mg q1h for nicotine replacement therapy								2 mg		2 mg		2 mg	2 mg	2 mg										
trazodone 100 mg qhs for insomnia																								
PRN zolpidem 10 mg qhs for insomnia																								

COWS=Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale; MDD=Maximum Daily Dose

X=Vitals or COWS completed.

X=Dose not given (i.e. clonazepam dose not given due to sedation, or clonidine dose not given due to sBP < 90 mm Hg or HR < 50 bpm)

<sup>1</sup> Administer 1st buprenorphine dose once patient exhibits acute opioid withdrawal symptoms (COWS ≥ 8). If COWS ≤ 7 and 24-48 hours from admission (and clinically indicated), MD/DO can administer low-dose buprenorphine 0.5 mg, see Buprenorphine Induction Flow Chart (No opioid withdrawal symptoms within 24-48h from admission).

<sup>2</sup> Administer PRN buprenorphine 2 mg if patient has COWS ≥ 7 on assessment 1 hour after each buprenorphine dose. Do not exceed a TDD of buprenorphine 10 mg. Lower buprenorphine dosing (6 to 8mg) is preferred for the Rapid Procedure.