

Buprenorphine Extended-Release Injection (Sublocade®)

Recovery-Focused Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)

What is buprenorphine extended-release (ER) injection (Sublocade®)?

Buprenorphine ER is a monthly injection used to treat moderate to severe OUD. The injection is a different form of buprenorphine medicines such as Suboxone® or Subutex®. A monthly injection may be more convenient than taking a medicine every day.



How does buprenorphine ER work?

Buprenorphine ER fits into the opioid receptor but doesn't turn it on all the way. The effects will not be as strong compared to an opioid like heroin or oxycodone.



- Injections stay in your body for a long time so you are less likely to have withdrawals and cravings.
- Buprenorphine ER is not used for pain, but you may have some pain relief while taking it.
- Taking medicine to treat a chronic illness, such as OUD, is not substituting one drug for another.

Will I need other forms of treatment?

Treatment of OUD includes a combination of medicine and social support. No two treatment plans are the same. Your health care provider will work with you to develop a treatment plan to fit your needs.



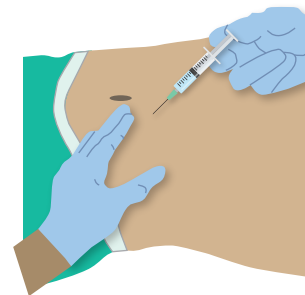
What do I need to know before starting treatment?

- You will need to take a different form of buprenorphine for **at least 7 days** before starting buprenorphine injections.
- **Do NOT take other sedating medicines** (such as opioids, benzodiazepines) with buprenorphine. This can cause severe drowsiness, unconsciousness, difficulty breathing, coma, or even death.
- **Opioid medicines (such as oxycodone, morphine) will not work normally** during treatment.
 - If you have a planned surgery, work with your health care provider on a pain management plan.
 - Have family members tell health care providers you are receiving treatment for OUD. Carry a medication identification (ID) card or bracelet in case of emergency.
- **Your opioid tolerance is lower after stopping buprenorphine.** This can increase the risk for fatal overdose. Ask your health care provider about **naloxone** (Narcan®), which can stop an accidental overdose.
- If you are pregnant and using opioids, medicines for OUD may be the safest option for you and your baby. Talk to your health care provider if you are pregnant, plan to get pregnant, or are breastfeeding.



How will I receive injections?

- Buprenorphine ER injection is given monthly under the skin of your stomach.
- You may see or feel a small bump under your skin at the injection site for several weeks. Do not rub or massage the injection site.
- If you miss a dose, contact your health care provider. It is important to get the injection **within 2 weeks** of your missed appointment.



What should I avoid while being treated?

- You should not drive, operate heavy machinery, or perform any other dangerous activities until you know how buprenorphine ER affects you.
- Do not take any medicines not prescribed to you when receiving this treatment.
- Do not drink alcohol while taking buprenorphine ER.

What are some of the side effects?

Common side effects

- Constipation
- Headache
- Nausea/vomiting
- Injection site itching/pain
- Drowsiness

Less common, but can be severe

- Trouble breathing
- Dizziness and problems with coordination
- Decrease in blood pressure
- Increase in liver enzymes

Tell your health care provider immediately if you have any of the following:

Physical dependence and withdrawals	Liver problems	Allergic reactions
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Shaking, goose bumps, and muscle aches• Sweating more than normal• Feeling hot or cold• Runny nose and/or watery eyes• Diarrhea or vomiting	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Your skin or the white part of your eyes turns yellow• Urine turns dark or tea-colored• Bowel movements light in color• Decreased appetite• Stomach pain or nausea	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Rash, hives, itching• Swelling of your face• Wheezing• Dizziness, or a decrease in consciousness

How long do I have to be on buprenorphine ER injections?

You and your health care provider will decide on your treatment plan. There is no limit on how long you can take this medicine. Some patients stay on this medication for life.



To reach the Veterans Crisis Line:

- Dial 988 and press 1
- Text to 838255
- Chat online at [VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat](https://www.VeteransCrisisLine.net/Chat)