

Suboxone Sublingual Tablets

February 2008

Dear pharmacist,

Suboxone, a new drug indicated for substitution treatment in opioid drug dependence in adults, is now available.

Patients prescribed Suboxone should be carefully monitored within a framework of medical, social, and psychological support as part of comprehensive opioid dependence treatment.

The College of Physicians and Surgeons of BC will be informing their registrants of the following criteria that must be met in order to prescribe Suboxone.

1. The physician must have an exemption for the prescription of methadone for opioid dependency. Intrinsic in obtaining and maintaining this exemption is education and experience in substitution treatment in opioid drug dependence.
2. Physicians must have appropriate training in the form of completion of an accredited Suboxone Education Program.
3. Suboxone must be prescribed on a duplicate prescription pad.

Suboxone contains two active ingredients: Buprenorphine, a partial agonist and Naloxone, an opiate antagonist. Naloxone is included to deter IV misuse of the product.

Due to the risk of abuse and misuse, particularly at the beginning of treatment, daily supervised dosing is required for minimally the first two months of treatment, and until the patient is clinically stable and able to safely store Suboxone take-home doses.

Training on Suboxone is not mandatory for pharmacists prior to dispensing but strongly recommended. Pharmacists can gain access to the education program provided by Schering Plough by visiting SuboxoneCME.ca, and use their College of Pharmacists of BC's registration number for registering. Module #3 is prepared for the pharmacists, but for full accreditation, all six modules have to be completed.

For technical assistance please e-mail admin@SuboxoneCME.ca. For product information please contact the Medical Information department at Schering-Plough Canada Inc. by calling 1-800-463-5442 or by e-mail at medical.services@spcorp.com.