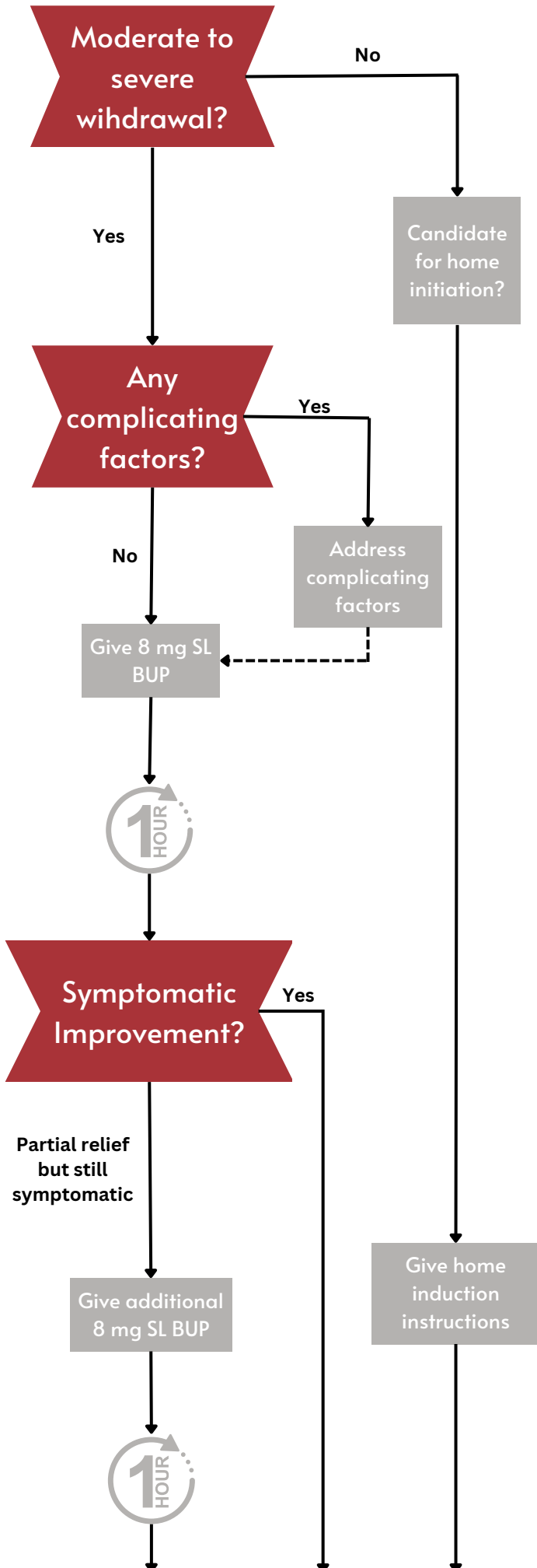


Initiating Buprenorphine Algorithm in Your ED



Discharge with:

1. Rx: Buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) 8mg/2mg SL 2 films daily for 7 days
2. Take-home IN Naloxone
3. Ambulatory referral to outpatient program/prescriber

For use in adult ED patients with moderate to severe Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) being discharged

- Moderate to severe OUD = daily opioid use and onset of withdrawal when opioids are not used

Moderate to Severe Opioid Withdrawal

- Calculate Clinical Opioid Withdrawal Scale (COWS) score
- Can give buprenorphine if COWS >12 with one objective sign of withdrawal

Complicating Factors

Do NOT give buprenorphine if patient:

- Has altered mental status or is intoxicated
- Is medically unstable
- Is on methadone

Pregnancy is not a contraindication to buprenorphine initiation. Consider consulting an obstetric or addiction medical specialist if other potential complications exist.

Precipitated Withdrawal:

- Decreased risk with longer time since last opioid use and greater withdrawal symptoms
- Treat with additional buprenorphine

Referral to Treatment:

- Check PMP. Prescribe buprenorphine-naloxone (Suboxone) 8mg/2mg sublingual two films daily for 7 days

Dispense Naloxone Kit at Discharge

Home Induction Guidelines

- See page 8 of the MOUD in ED Toolkit (Link below) for Home Induction Guidelines

Warm Handoff - defined as a patient leaving with a follow-up medication appointment day and time

- Inclusion of peers, recovery coaches or OPTIONS liaisons for navigation and patient support can help assist with continuity of care
- For more information or to contact your county liaison, visit the OPTIONS website:

knowyouroptions.me

Scan this QR Code to access the following resources:

[MOUD in ED Toolkit](#)

[Companion Guide](#)

[Words Matter](#)

