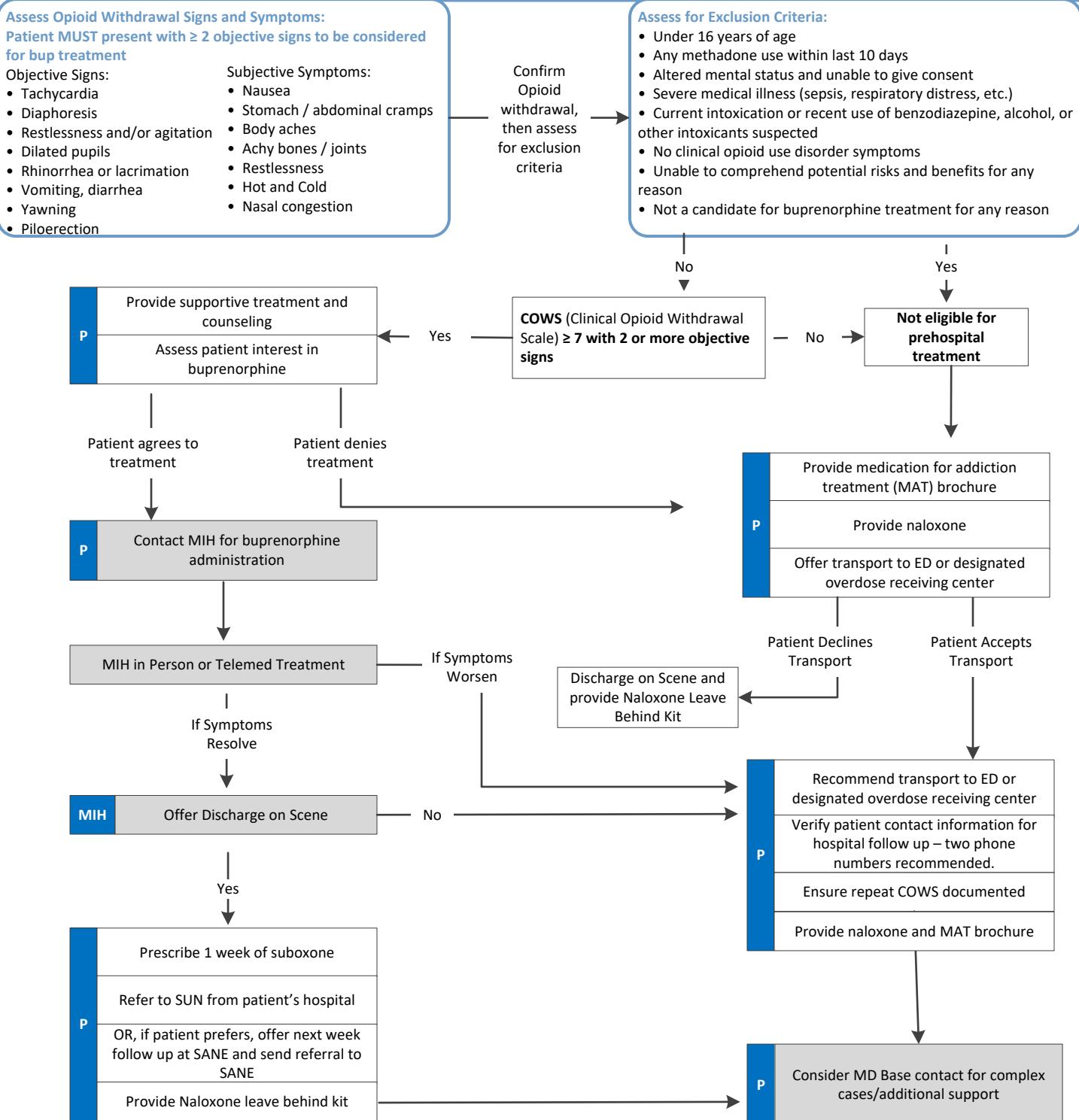




# MIH - Buprenorphine



## Notes: MIH in Person or Telemed Treatment:

- Verify COWS and exclusion criteria
- Titrate suboxone to eliminate withdrawal symptoms with 8 mg every 20 min as needed for a maximum of 24 mg



# Treatment Protocol 5057



## MIH - Buprenorphine

EMS Medical Director:  
Signature on File  
EMS Administrator:  
Signature on File

Wesson & Ling, J Psychoactive Drugs. 2003 Apr-Jun;35(2):253-9.

## COWS Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale

Resting Pulse Rate: _____ beats/minute Measured after patient is sitting or lying for one minute	GI Upset: over last 1/2 hour
0 Pulse rate 80 or below	0 No GI symptoms
1 Pulse rate 81-100	1 Stomach cramps
2 Pulse rate 101-120	2 Nausea or loose stool
4 Pulse rate greater than 120	3 Vomiting or diarrhea
	5 Multiple episodes of diarrhea or vomiting
Sweating: over past 1/2 hour not accounted for by room temperature or patient activity:	Tremor observation of outstretched hands
0 No report of chills or flushing	0 No tremor
1 Subjective report of chills or flushing	1 Tremor can be felt, but not observed
2Flushed or observable moisture on face	2 Slight tremor observable
3 Beads of sweat on brow or face	4 Gross tremor or muscle twitching
4 Sweat streaming off face	
Restlessness Observation during assessment	Yawning Observation during assessment
0 Able to sit still	0 No yawning
1 Reports difficulty sitting still, but is able to do so	1 Yawning once or twice during assessment
3 Frequent shifting or extraneous movements of legs/arms	2 Yawning three or more times during assessment
5 Unable to sit still for more than a few seconds	4 Yawning several times/minute
Pupil size	Anxiety or irritability
0 Pupils pinned or normal size for room light	0 None
1 Pupils possibly larger than normal for room light	1 Patient reports increasing irritability or anxiousness
2 Pupils moderately dilated	2 Patient obviously irritable anxious
5 Pupils so dilated that only the rim of the iris is visible	4 Patient so irritable or anxious that participation in the assessment is difficult
Bone or Joint aches If patient was having pain previously, only the additional component attributed to opiates withdrawal is scored	Gooseflesh skin
0 Not present	0 Skin is smooth
1 Mild diffuse discomfort	3 Piloerection of skin can be felt or hairs standing up on arms
2 Patient reports severe diffuse aching of joints/ muscles	5 Prominent piloerection
4 Patient is rubbing joints or muscles and is unable to sit still because of discomfort	
Runny nose or tearing Not accounted for by cold symptoms or allergies	Total Score _____ The total score is the sum of all 11 items Initials of person completing Assessment: _____
0 Not present	
1 Nasal stuffiness or unusually moist eyes	
2 Nose running or tearing	
4 Nose constantly running or tears streaming down cheeks	

Score: 5-12 mild; 13-24 moderate; 25-36 moderately severe; more than 36 = severe withdrawal

## Pearls

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## Treatment Guideline 5057