

## Information about Buprenorphine

This is an easy way to say: boo-pre-NOR-feen



### What is buprenorphine?



Buprenorphine is a medicine that can help you stop using drugs such as heroin.

Buprenorphine can sometimes be called a different name like **Subutex**.



Buprenorphine is taken as a tablet.

When you take a buprenorphine tablet you will need to put it under your tongue to dissolve it.

### Where do I get buprenorphine?



You can only get this medicine with a prescription.



The doctor or nurse:

- Will ask you questions about the drugs that you use
- Will ask if you are taking any other medicine
- Might ask you for a sample of urine

## How do I take buprenorphine?

The doctor or nurse will talk to you about how much buprenorphine you will need to take.



The doctor or nurse will tell you how to take your buprenorphine.



You will usually be asked to take buprenorphine **12 hours** after your last dose of heroin or **24 to 36 hours** after your last dose of methadone.



At first you may have to visit the pharmacy to take buprenorphine so they can help you take the right amount.



After a few months of taking buprenorphine you will be able to start taking your normal dose on your own at home.



If you forget to take your medicine you must tell your carer, doctor or nurse and ask for advice.



You should not stop taking your medicine suddenly as this could make you feel unwell.



## What is good about buprenorphine?



Buprenorphine can help you stop using drugs such as heroin.

Buprenorphine can help you to stay away from using drugs such as heroin in the future.



## What is not good about buprenorphine?



There are some health problems that people can get when they take buprenorphine.

These problems are called **side effects**, but not everyone gets them. Some side effects of buprenorphine are:



- Constipation
- Feeling sick
- Feeling dizzy
- Headache
- Finding it hard to sleep
- Feeling very anxious

You should talk to your doctor or nurse if:



- You are worried about your medicine
- You have any questions about side effects
- You are feeling unwell

## About this leaflet



The staff member working with you must always talk to you about this leaflet when they first give it to you.



If you have any questions about this information sheet please ask the staff member that gave it to you.

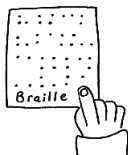


If you have any suggestions to make this leaflet better, please call the Participation and Engagement Team on **01270 848037** or email us on **centralandeast.participation@cwps.nhs.uk**.

The information in this easy read leaflet should always be discussed with the service user and it should not be provided without support.

A full information sheet about **buprenorphine** should also be given to the service user, carer and staff.

This leaflet is available in other languages or formats.



**For more information see [www.cwp.nhs.uk](http://www.cwp.nhs.uk).**

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