

## SUMMARY

### SUBOXONE™:

- Is a combination of buprenorphine and nalaxone
- Works practically like methadone
- Is a tablet that dissolves under the tongue
- Prevents withdrawal symptoms
- Reduces cravings



If you have any questions concerning this treatment, speak to a member of your treatment team.

They will be happy to answer any questions you may have.



## SERVICES

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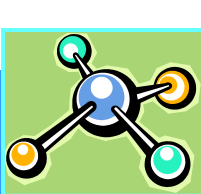
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SUBOXONE™



AN  
ALTERNATIVE  
TO  
METHADONE

UN CRAN DE PLUS  
AVEC VOUS



In November 2007, Health Canada approved a new medication for use in the substitution treatment of opiate dependency.

Suboxone™ is a tablet that combines buprenorphine and nalaxone.

The Conseil québécois du médicament approved Suboxone™ as a medication of exception. The Council thinks that the medication is less effective than methadone, but represents an interesting alternative to it.

Suboxone™ will be reimbursed under Québec medication insurance, as an opiate substitution treatment, for the following reasons : failure, intolerance or counterindication of methadone treatment or in the case that a methadone maintenance program is not available or accessible.

Your treatment team can evaluate if Suboxone™ is a good choice for you and if you meet the eligibility criteria for reimbursement.



**HOW DOES SUBOXONE™ WORK?**

Suboxone™ works like an opiate. Like methadone, it prevents withdrawal symptoms, diminishes cravings and reduces the effects of other opiates, without producing a «high».

**YOU ALREADY ARE ON METHADONE?**

If you are stabilised and satisfied with your methadone treatment, there is no reason to change your medication.

However, if you have difficulties, speak with your physician who has information to help evaluate if Suboxone™ is a good choice for you, and if you qualify for reimbursement. If you are not reimbursement eligible, Suboxone™ could be prescribed but you would have to pay for it.



**YOU ARE PREGNANT**

If you are pregnant and taking methadone, it is preferable not to change your medication. Methadone is a secure medication for the foetus.

If you are already taking Suboxone™, you may continue your treatment but with Subutex (buprenorphine only).



**SUBOXONE™**

Suboxone™ (a combination of buprenorphine and nalaxone) is a tablet that dissolves under the tongue.

When nalaxone is absorbed orally, it doesn't cause withdrawal, but if taken intravenously, it immediately provokes withdrawal symptoms.



Just like methadone, if Suboxone™, is taken with other substances (opiates, alcohol, benzodizepines or other medications, etc.) it can significantly increase the risk of overdose.



**S a m**  
Service d'appui pour la méthadone

(Service d'appui—TDO)

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