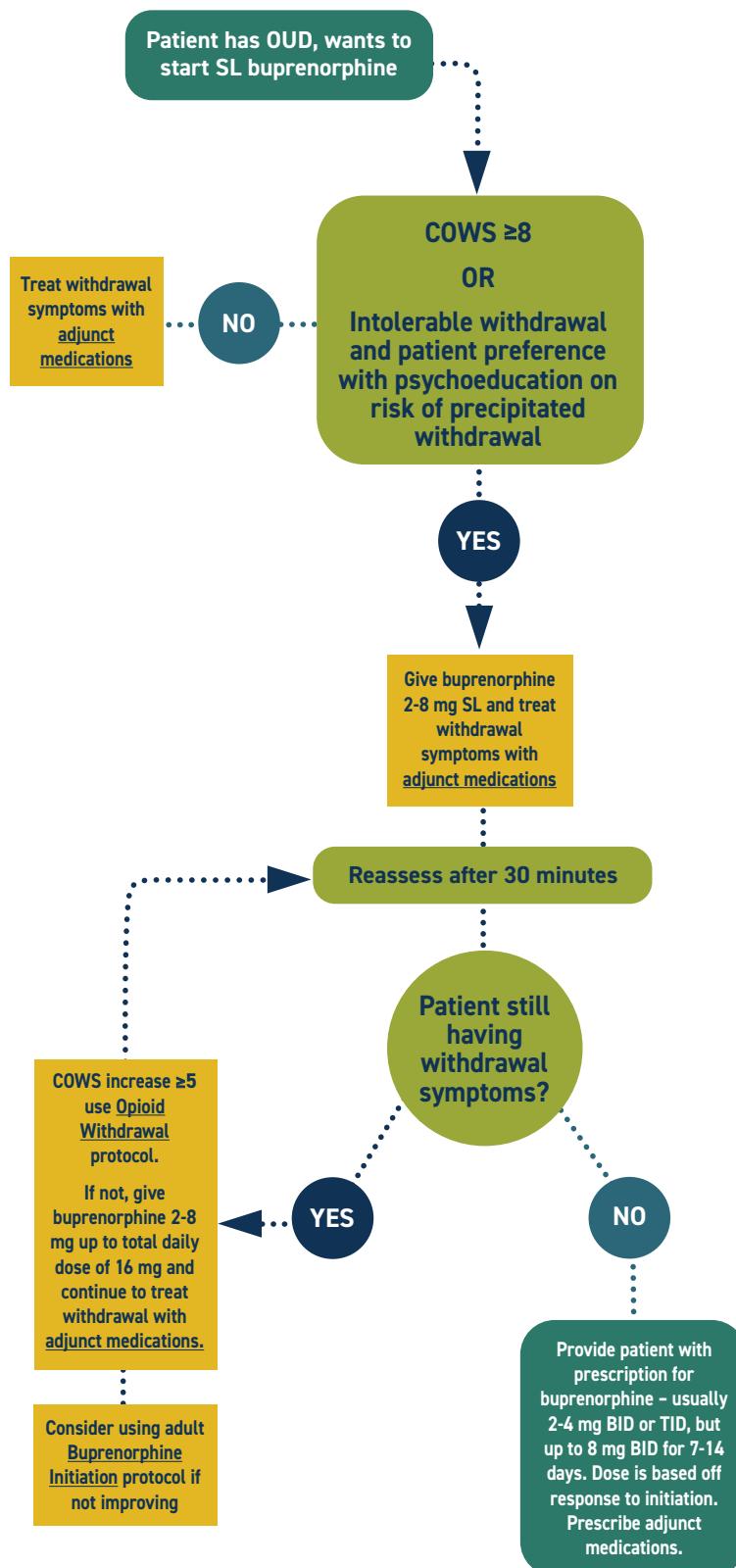


Emergency Department Adolescent Buprenorphine Initiation (Ages 13+)



Considerations

In the State of Washington, the age of consent for treatment of OUD is 13.

While adolescents do better when parents are involved in their care, people 13 years of age or older can be treated as an outpatient for OUD with buprenorphine without parental notification or consent.

Buprenorphine is FDA approved for those 16 years of age or older. Its use in those under 16 is off label but is widely considered both safe and effective.

Potential complicating factors include:

- Allergy or sensitivity
- Severe respiratory compromise
- Chronic use of long acting opioids (e.g., methadone or Oxycontin®)

Consider expert consultation, but prioritize treating symptoms.

Consider screening for HIV, HCV, STIs, and mental health comorbidities.

*The lower the COWS score the higher the risk of precipitated withdrawal. Active stimulant intoxication can falsely elevate the COWS score. The use of buprenorphine can unmask symptoms of stimulant intoxication.

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