

Protecting Others and Protecting Treatment

KEEPING BUPRENORPHINE* SAFE AND AWAY FROM CHILDREN

REGIONAL CENTER FOR POISON
CONTROL AND PREVENTION

Serving Massachusetts and Rhode Island

1-800-222-1222



**Some of the brand names are Suboxone, Subutex, Bunavail, Zubsolv*



Children can be harmed by buprenorphine in the following ways:

- **Licking**
 - **Tasting**
 - **Sucking**
 - Swallowing
- THESE CAN BE MORE HARMFUL THAN SWALLOWING

WHAT TO DO IF A CHILD IS EXPOSED TO BUPRENORPHINE (SUBOXONE, SUBUTEX, BUNAVAIL, ZUBSOLV, ETC.):

- **REMOVE IT FROM THEIR MOUTH.** If they will not open their mouth, gently squeeze their cheeks in to remove it.
- Call 911 immediately.
- If the medication is still visible in their mouth: remove, swipe, rinse, and spit.
- Wash any residue of the medication from their hands and face.
- Get emergency help immediately.
- Bring remainder of medication with you to the emergency department.
- Stay with the child while you wait for emergency help.

Symptoms may be delayed and even if the child looks “fine” it is important to call the Center for Poison Control (1-800-222-1222; TTY 1-888-244-5313) and seek emergency help right away.

If you observe drowsiness, trouble breathing, slow breathing, or loss of consciousness, call 911 immediately.

CALL 911

DELAY IN SEEKING HELP COULD RESULT IN DEATH.

PREVENTION TIPS:

- Keep medication out of sight and out of reach of children.
- Always keep pills in a labeled prescription bottle with a childproof cap.
- Use a locked box, bag, or cabinet for safer storage.
- Do not put tablets down on counters, sinks, dressers, or nightstands.
- Film packages should never be left open or left out. Cutting film into pieces is dangerous.
- Film pieces dissolve very quickly and therefore are extremely dangerous to a child or anyone else not prescribed this medication.
- Since it is easier for children to put small pieces and crumbs in their mouth, try to prevent pills from breaking.
- To prevent breakage, keep cotton or tissue in the bottle.
- Avoid leaving the medication in your pocket, bag, purse, or backpack.
- Avoid leaving medication in the car or any public space.
- Kids like to imitate adults. If possible, it may be best to take your medicine out of their sight.

You have now taken helpful steps to protect children, and your medication!

Description of Buprenorphine:

SUBOXONE:

is a film that has a bitter, tangy taste, is attractive to children because it looks like candy, and is easily absorbed in the mouth without swallowing

ZUBSOLV:

is absorbed faster than the generic tablets, and is tasty

BUNAVAIL:

is a film that has a faster absorption time than the tablets, and has a desirable taste

SUBUTEX GENERIC:

is easily absorbed in the mouth without swallowing



Protecting Others & Protecting Treatment...

Save the Poison Control number in your phone and address book and post in a visible location.

Your recovery means a great deal to your child. These “safety steps” discussed in this booklet can help keep them safe.

Regional Center for Poison Control

1-800-222-1222
(TTY 1-888-244-5313)

Acknowledgements:

This brochure was produced by STATE OBOT (State Technical Assistance Treatment Expansion Office Based Opioid Treatment of Buprenorphine), and Massachusetts Department of Public Health Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS).

New sites may have been added recently throughout the state.

For the most up to date information on Office Based Opioid Treatment (OBOTs) and other treatment and recovery programs contact:

MASSACHUSETTS SUBSTANCE ABUSE INFORMATION AND EDUCATION HELPLINE

1-800-327-5050

TTY Use Mass Relay at 711

or 1-800-439-2370

www.helpline-online.com

MDPH/BSAS

sponsors this brochure and a wide range of free resources for adults and youth:

1-800-952-6637 (toll-free)

TTY: Use MassRelay at 711

or 1-800-720-3480

www.mass.gov/maclearinghouse

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