

Exclusion criteria:

- Patients < 12 years of age
- Patients being actively weaned
- Patients with sickle cell disease
- Patients on chronic therapeutic opioids

Opioid Withdrawal Signs and Symptoms

Signs:

- Elevated blood pressure, rapid heart rate, and irritability or agitation
- Dilated pupils, sweating, runny nose, goose bumps
- Diarrhea, inability to sleep, heavy yawning, watering eyes

Symptoms:

- Restlessness or anxiety
- Nausea, vomiting, or abdominal cramping
- Tremor/shaking, muscle aches, joint pain
- Sensitive to touch
- Intense desire for drugs

If several signs or symptoms are present, please refer to [Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale \(COWS\)](#).

COWS Score

- Mild withdrawal: 5 - 12
- Moderate withdrawal: 13 - 24
- Moderately severe withdrawal: 25 - 36
- Severe withdrawal: > 36

Consults to Consider

- Medical Toxicology
- Social Work
- Adolescent and Young Adult Medicine Clinic
- Developmental and Behavioral Health

Additional Resources

- [How to Talk to Your Kids About Using Drugs](#)
- [Important Facts to Know When Taking Opioids](#)
- [Illicit Fentanyl Facts](#)
- [Buprenorphine Quick Start Guide \(SAMHSA\)](#)
- [Naloxone](#)
- [Locking Medicine Pouch](#)
- [Locking Medication Storage Box](#)

Children's Mercy Provider Resources

- [Opioid Stewardship Program](#)
- [Opioid Treatment Agreement](#)

Preparation for Discharge Home Resources

- [Outpatient Medication Assisted Treatment Resources](#)
- [Suboxone Sublingual Films](#) handout
- [Naloxone](#) handout
- [Locking Medication Storage Box](#)
- [Locking Medicine Pouch](#)

