

SUFENTANIL PROGRAM



WHAT IS SUFENTANIL?

Sufentanil is a liquid form of fentanyl that may be taken under the tongue or injected into a muscle or vein.

WHY A SUFENTANIL PROGRAM?

Participants are prescribed sufentanil to reduce their need to purchase unregulated opioids with unknown amounts of fentanyl and other unknown substances, reducing the risk of drug poisoning.

WHO IS IT FOR?

If you use unregulated fentanyl, this may be an option for you. You and a substance use care provider can discuss the appropriateness and accessibility of this intervention.

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

Sufentanil is covered under PharmaCare, including Plan G, Plan C, and Plan W for those eligible.

CAUTION!

Side effects of sufentanil may include: slowed breathing, nausea, vomiting, constipation, or drug poisoning resulting in death or brain injury

- Tell your care provider if you are on HIV medication, since it can interact with sufentanil and increase your risk of a drug poisoning.
- If you miss multiple doses, you may need to see your care provider before you resume the program.
- Avoid using downers like alcohol and benzos, as they may interact with this medication and increase the risk of drug toxicity (also called overdose).
- Try to avoid injecting sufentanil into the jugular vein ("jugging") as it increases the risk of stroke, infection, and death.



For more information, visit -----

MORE INFO
NEXT PAGE





SUFENTANIL PROGRAM

QUICK FACTS

WHAT IS A SUFENTANIL PROGRAM?

- It is designed to help reduce harms associated with the unregulated drug supply.
- It is a liquid form of fentanyl that is taken on a daily basis under the tongue or injected into a muscle or vein under the supervision of healthcare providers.
- Some people may want or need sufentanil only. Others may need it on top of their methadone or Kadian. **Sufentanil should not be used on top of Suboxone treatment.**
- Some programs are starting to offer this option, however, local accessibility may vary.
- This is not an approved treatment for opioid use disorder (sometime referred to as opioid addiction) as there is no current research evidence to support the use of sufentanil in this way.

HOW DOES THE PROGRAM WORK?

- **You and a substance use care provider can work together** to decide if trying sufentanil is right for you, and to find a dose where you are comfortable (no withdrawal symptoms or cravings) and your goals are achieved.
- Sufentanil is prescribed by a doctor or nurse practitioner after completing a tolerance test.
- You will need to attend a clinic for your medication and you will be monitored for 10 minutes for sedation after the first few doses, or if you miss too many doses. After this, you do not need to stay.
- If you decide to inject sufentanil into a muscle, nurses or peer supports can teach you how to find an appropriate location.
- Your preference and history will determine how sufentanil will be administered when starting the program (under the tongue or injected into a muscle or vein).



For more information, visit -----

MORE INFO
NEXT PAGE