

FNIHB- OR Nursing Policy and Procedure

Section: **Pharmacy**

Policy Number: **III - 07**

Subject: **Suboxone**

Issued: **March 31, 2015**

Distribution: **All Nursing Facilities**

Revised:

1. POLICY:

Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners shall handle, dispense and administer suboxone according to the FNIHB policy found in the *FNIHB Nursing Station Formulary and Drug Classification System*.

2. PRINCIPLES:

2.1 Suboxone is indicated for substitution treatment in opioid drug dependence in adults.

2.2 In regions with a community-based Opioid Addiction Treatment Program approved by Regional Office Senior Management, a small quantity of Suboxone tablets may be kept on hand at the nursing station as bulk inventory for emergency situations only.

2.3 Clients undergoing Suboxone treatment must be involved in ongoing monitoring, counseling and screening.

3. DEFINITIONS:

Nurse: Refers to Registered Nurses and Nurse Practitioners.

4. PROCEDURE:

4.1 The nurse shall verify the written order in accordance with the FNIHB-OR *Pharmacy Administration Standards* policy.

4.2 Suboxone shall be handled as directed by the FNIHB (2013). *FNIHB Nursing Station Formulary and Drug Classification System*.

4.3 In communities whereby suboxone is being stocked, the NIC shall ensure that sufficient naloxone (poisoning antidote) is stocked in the health facility as outlined in the *FNIHB Nursing Station Formulary and Drug Classification System*.

NOTE: In communities where there are no approved Suboxone community-based Opioid Addiction Treatment Programs in place, nursing stations will not stock Suboxone as a bulk inventory.

4.4 The nurse shall seek clarification from his/her supervisor or regional pharmacist, as required.

5. RELATED POLICIES:

CDS Annex 11: Suboxone Register Form
FNIHB Policy and Procedures on Controlled Drug Substances for First Nations Health Facilities
FNIHB-OR Policy: *Controlled Substances*
FNIHB-OR Policy: *Dispensing Medications*
FNIHB-OR Policy: *Medication Administration Standards*

6. REFERENCES:

FNIHB (2013). *FNIHB Nursing Station Formulary and Drug Classification System*.
FNIHB (2013). *FNIHB Policy and Procedures on Controlled Drug Substances for First Nations Health Facilities*.
FNIHB (2013). *Nursing Role in a Community Based Opioid Dependence Program in Nursing Stations and Health Centres with Treatment in Ontario Region*.
Suboxone CPhA monograph. In: Repchinsky C, editor. *Compendium of Pharmaceuticals and Specialities* 2013. Ottawa (ON): Canadian Pharmacists Association; 2013. P. 2588-91.

Approved by:		Effective Date: March 31, 2015
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