



The National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment

~Keeping you informed~

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15 ways to save money on buprenorphine treatment

- 1. Manufacturer's Copay card** – Patients can get \$50 off of out-of-pocket Suboxone Film® costs through December 31, 2012 (does not apply to Massachusetts residents or prescriptions covered under Medicare, Medicaid, TRICARE, or other federal or state assistance programs). The copay card can be printed from the manufacturer's website and presented to the pharmacist. It can be used to cover all or part of the insurance copay and can also be used to save \$50 for cash-paying patients. [Details](#)
- 2. Third-party prescription discount cards** – There are a number of discount cards available from sources like AAA, some pharmacy chains and discount prescription websites. The AddictionSurvivors discussion board has an area dedicated to discussing these cards and gives the opportunity to hear from people who actually used them. Each card has its own conditions and discount rate. [Details](#)
- 3. Buy drug test kits online** – Most physicians conduct urine tests for illicit drugs at each office visit. Usually, the urine is sent to a lab for processing, this can be expensive. If the physician is willing, the patient can [purchase drug test kits online](#) for under \$10. This could save hundreds depending on how often and for how many drugs the lab tests for.
- 4. Marketing research opportunities** – Occasionally, research firms want to survey patients in buprenorphine treatment and usually offer some kind of honorarium, usually \$50-\$100 depending on the length of the survey. These usually take less than 30 minutes to complete. [naabt.org](#) and [AddictionSurvivors.org](#) will post listings of opportunities once they become available and are verified as legitimate.
- 5. Insurance** – If the physician doesn't accept private insurance, claims can be submitted to the insurer for direct reimbursement. Check the insurer's website for the self-reimbursement forms or contact the insurer's claims department for the proper forms and instructions. Many patients do this successfully as many physicians do not accept insurance. [More on insurance](#)
- 6. Manufacturer's free meds program** – Each physician may have up to 3 qualifying patients on the free meds program, but the manufacturer limits the total monthly applicants. A physician must also agree to participate in the program. The patient receives a card to present at the pharmacy for the medication, which is an improvement over the old program that shipped the medication to the physician. [Details](#)
- 7. Partial prescription fills** – If patients can't afford the entire prescription all at once, they can ask the pharmacy to dispense a partial prescription. This type of partial dispensing should not count as a refill. Although this doesn't actually save any money, it may be a way to stay in treatment when there isn't enough money to buy the entire prescription.



AddictionSurvivors.org

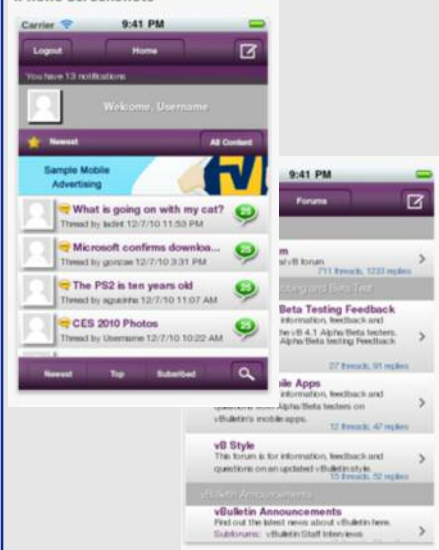
Addiction Survivors goes mobile.

Get the App for your iPhone or Android-based phone and have access to the Addiction Survivors community whenever and wherever you need it, and its free.



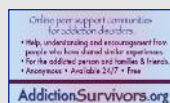
[iPhone](#) | [Android](#)

iPhone Screenshots



Free Peer Support Referral Cards – while supplies last! We have referral cards to AddictionSurvivors.org available for no charge.

In some parts of the country patients cannot find live support groups that understand the challenges and benefits of medication assisted treatment. The Addiction Survivors patient community is available 24/7.



To order free cards: email us at MakeContact@naabt.org Please include your name, street address and how many cards you would like.

15 ways to save money on buprenorphine treatment (Con't)



8. **For patients taking Subutex®** – A generic version is now available, but as of this writing, there is no generic for Suboxone tablet or film. It should be noted, if not specifically FDA approved for opioid dependence, other buprenorphine products cannot be legally prescribed to treat opioid dependence; examples are BuTrans®, Buprenex®, or pharmacy-compounded buprenorphine products. [Subutex is discontinued for 2012](#)

9. **Clinical studies** – Can be a source of both free medication and free medical care, although the patient will be subject to whatever conditions are set up in the study. Look for open label Phase IV studies because that means the medication is already FDA approved and you will know what medication is being provided. www.clinicaltrials.gov

10. **Negotiate with the provider** – Patients may be able to negotiate a lower price with their physician or counselor.

11. **Less frequent office visits** – As the patient stabilizes, s/he can request to have less frequent office visits. Although physicians commonly require patients to come in for appointments every month to monitor the patient's progress, schedule III medications can be refilled up to 5 times in a 6 month period. Visit frequency is ultimately determined by the physician, but it doesn't hurt to ask, particularly for those stable in long-term addiction remission.

12. **Lower dose** – If the patient has been stable for several months, s/he may find that a lower dose still suppresses cravings and withdrawal symptoms. Discuss this with the physician, of course, to make sure that no more medication is being taken, and paid for, than is needed to maintain addiction remission. Also, doses above the patient's ceiling dose provide little additional benefit.

13. **Referral fee** – Some physicians will provide a referral fee or discount when patients are directly referred to treatment.

14. **Methadone Clinics** – Some methadone clinics also offer buprenorphine. This varies state to state and clinic to clinic but it may be subsidized in some way and available at reduced cost. However, find out the rules and dispensing criteria for each clinic beforehand, which often initially consists of daily witnessed dosing at the clinic.

15. **Shop around** – Shopping around for a good value is not what is meant by the term "doctor shopping". That refers to seeing several doctors for the same ailment without the other doctor's knowledge. The intention of "doctor shopping" is to obtain multiple prescriptions, often painkillers, from multiple doctors. Shopping around for a good value is prudent so long as it doesn't delay the commencement of life-saving treatment. One strategy is to begin treatment immediately then search for better value later. [See doctor shopping](#)

The National Alliance of Advocates for Buprenorphine Treatment is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization formed to help people, in need of treatment, find treatment providers who are willing and able to treat opioid dependency in the privacy of a doctor's office. Our website offers answers to frequently asked questions, actual patient experiences, information on the history and treatments of opioid addiction, current news on the subject and more. [Donate](#)

This newsletter is provided to keep you informed on matters relating to Buprenorphine Treatment. Please feel free to contact us at newsletter@naabt.org with feedback, suggestions, or perhaps you would like to contribute a story. Also feel free to photocopy or print as many as these newsletters as you wish for distribution.

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6 ways to find buprenorphine treatment – Not all doctors can prescribe buprenorphine. In fact only about 19,000 of the 700,000 U.S. physicians (2.7%) have the necessary credentials to prescribe it for addiction. In addition those who can prescribe have limits on how many patients they can treat.

To become certified doctors must take an 8-hour course and file a request. This can be done online. See <http://www.naabt.org/providers.cfm#pc> You can ask your doctor to become certified.

[Click Here for the Six Ways to Find Buprenorphine Treatment](#)

Patients and Prescribing Physicians.

Patients and prescribing physicians can now order a free "in case of emergency" wallet card that alert healthcare workers that buprenorphine can affect opioid pain



medication. The card also lists a link to this web page: www.naabt.org/emergency with important relevant links useful if opioid pain treatment becomes necessary. Simply email us a mailing address to send the card to at MakeContact@naabt.org

Voluntary Disclosure: Some of the funding for this organization is provided by anonymous donors whose lives were touched by evidence-based addiction treatment and were willing to help support our mission. NAABT, Inc. has also accepted funding from pharmaceutical companies in the form of "Unrestricted Educational Grants." The grants are "unrestricted" so that there are no "strings" attached. NAABT, Inc. has complete control over how the funds are used, there are no restrictions on the content or mission of this site, and donors have no control over the content of the site or NAABT's activities. NAABT, Inc. is solely responsible for all of its activities. [Click here](#) to learn more about NAABT.

