Allergies:  NO  YES (specify):	
Emergency Department Protocol for Acute Opioid Withdrawal	
Date:	Time:
MD Instructions:	
Opioid(s) last used:	Time opioid(s) last used:
1. Assess indications for buprenorphine/naloxone:	
COWS greater then 12 and one of the following: At least 12 hrs since last short acting opioid (e.g. Heroin, crushed OxyContin®, Percocet®) At least 24 hrs since last long acting opioid (e.g. PO OxyContin®, OxyNeo®) At least 72 hrs since last methadone dose	
2. Assess for contraindications:	
Allergy or hypersensitivity to buprenorphine or naloxone Prescribed methadone or buprenorphine/naloxone Severe liver dysfunction Acute severe respiratory distress	Decreased level of consciousness Inability to provide informed consent Acute alcoholism or delirium tremens Paralytic ileus
<ul> <li>Monitoring:</li> <li>☑ COWS at presentation and q2h (form on back)</li> <li>☑ Discontinue COWS when COWS less than 5</li> <li>☑ Notify MD to reassess patient when COWS less than 5 or when maximum buprenorphine/naloxone given</li> </ul>	
Medications:	
Use low dose buprenorphine/naloxone if elderly or risk of central nervous system or respiratory depression	
<ul> <li>□ Buprenorphine/naloxone 2/0.5 mg X <u>2 tabs</u> sublingual q2h for COWS greater than 12, max 2 doses.</li> <li>□ Buprenorphine/naloxone 2/0.5 mg X <u>1 tabs</u> sublingual q2h for COWS greater than 12, max 4 doses.</li> <li>○ Observe patient until buprenorphine/naloxone is fully dissolved under the tongue</li> <li>○ Acetaminophen 500-1000 mg PO q6h PRN for pain, max 4g in 24 hours</li> <li>○ Ibuprofen 200-400 mg PO q6h PRN for pain</li> <li>○ Ondansetron 4-8mg PO/IV q4h PRN for nausea</li> </ul>	
Name: Signat	ure: MD
Discharge orders:         □       Provide patient with prescription, completed by MD.         ☑       Provide patient with information handout "Acute Opioid Withdrawal""         ☑       Fax referral to addiction medicine clinic if completed by MD	
Name: Signat	ure: MD