

## Cheryl's Story

Cheryl is the host of her own radio talk show. But what she wants to talk about these days is how she made it through the darkest period in her life and how there is hope for others to do the same.

In 2004, Cheryl was involved in a devastating car accident that left her with a broken neck and placed her in a coma for three days. Doctors prescribed opioid prescription painkillers to help her manage the constant pain. But after six months of use, Cheryl became dependent on the medication, and when her prescription ran out, she began purchasing painkillers from whoever would sell them.

In time, Cheryl spent all of her money on painkillers. Her actions cost her more than she could have imagined: she lost her husband, her career and her house. To add to the chaos, Cheryl began sharing her prescription painkillers with her teenage son, fueling his own addiction.

One day, Cheryl had a vision of herself as a mother holding her son – but instead of feeding him a bottle, she was giving him pills. At that moment, she broke down. Cheryl knew it was time to reset her reality and chart a new course for her life. Days after her vision, Cheryl sought treatment for her opioid dependence and is now on a treatment plan that includes SUBOXONE® (buprenorphine and naloxone) Sublingual Film and counseling. Her relationships with friends and family have been restored and she now has the time and energy to focus on the things that truly matter to her, like her family.

As a reset reality ambassador, Cheryl wants people who are bound in the vicious cycle of opioid dependence to realize that they are not alone and that there is hope. She is sharing her story to let others know that life is waiting for them on the other side of addiction, and that the journey to get to recovery is not as far away as they may think.

#### Indication

SUBOXONE® (buprenorphine and naloxone) Sublingual Film is indicated for maintenance treatment of opioid dependence as part of a complete treatment plan to include counseling and psychosocial support.

Treatment should be initiated under the direction of physicians qualified under the Drug Addiction Treatment Act.

### **Important Safety Information**

SUBOXONE® (buprenorphine and naloxone) Sublingual Film should not be used by patients hypersensitive to buprenorphine or naloxone, as serious adverse reactions, including anaphylactic shock, have been reported.





#### Important Safety Information (cont'd)

SUBOXONE (buprenorphine and naloxone) Sublingual Film can be abused in a manner similar to other opioids, legal or illicit. Clinical monitoring appropriate to the patient's level of stability is essential.

Chronic use of buprenorphine can cause physical dependence. A sudden or rapid decrease in dose may result in an opioid withdrawal syndrome that is typically milder than seen with full agonists and may be delayed in onset.

SUBOXONE Sublingual Film can cause serious life-threatening respiratory depression and death, particularly when taken by the intravenous (IV) route in combination with benzodiazepines or other central nervous system (CNS) depressants (ie, sedatives, tranquilizers, or alcohol). It is extremely dangerous to self-administer nonprescribed benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants while taking SUBOXONE Sublingual Film. Dose reduction of CNS depressants, SUBOXONE Sublingual Film, or both when both are being taken should be considered.

Liver function should be monitored before and during treatment.

Death has been reported in nontolerant, nondependent individuals, especially in the presence of CNS depressants.

Children who take SUBOXONE Sublingual Film can have severe, possibly fatal, respiratory depression. Emergency medical care is critical. Keep SUBOXONE Sublingual Film out of the sight and reach of children.

Intravenous misuse or taking SUBOXONE Sublingual Film before the effects of full-agonist opioids (eg, heroin, hydrocodone, methadone, morphine, oxycodone) have subsided is highly likely to cause opioid withdrawal symptoms.

Neonatal withdrawal has been reported.

Use of SUBOXONE Sublingual Film in pregnant women or during breast-feeding should only be considered if the potential benefit justifies the potential risk.

Caution should be exercised when driving vehicles or operating hazardous machinery, especially during dose adjustment.

Adverse events commonly observed with the sublingual administration of SUBOXONE Sublingual Film are oral hypoesthesia, glossodynia, oral mucosal erythema, headache, nausea, vomiting, hyperhidrosis, constipation, signs and symptoms of withdrawal, insomnia, pain, and peripheral edema.

Cytolytic hepatitis, jaundice, and allergic reactions, including anaphylactic shock, have been reported.

This is not a complete list of potential adverse events associated with SUBOXONE Sublingual Film. Please see full Prescribing Information for a complete list at <a href="https://www.suboxone.com/pdfs/SuboxonePI.pdf">www.suboxone.com/pdfs/SuboxonePI.pdf</a>.





# **Important Safety Information (cont'd)**

To report an adverse event associated with taking SUBOXONE (buprenorphine and naloxone) Sublingual Film, pleasecall 1-877-782-6966. You are encouraged to report adverse events of prescription drugs to the FDA. Visit <a href="https://www.fda.gov/medwatch">www.fda.gov/medwatch</a> or call 1-800-FDA-1088.

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