

Bupropion (Wellbutrin® ; Wellbutrin SR®)

ALAMEDA COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH CARE SERVICES

Client's Name _____ Date _____

Initial Medication Instructions _____

What does this medication help to treat?

- Depression
- Feelings of guilt
- Sad and/or irritable mood
- Difficulty thinking, concentrating, remembering
- Low energy

- Lack of interest or pleasure from things you used to enjoy
 - Thoughts of hurting yourself or of suicide
 - Poor appetite, poor sleep
- Bupropion is sometimes prescribed for other uses; ask your prescriber or pharmacist for more information.

Other Information

- You should start to notice some benefits of this medication within 1 to 3 weeks after initiation of therapy. Full effects may not be seen until 4-6 weeks of therapy. If you have experienced no benefit after one month of treatment at the prescribed dose, contact your prescriber.
- Maximum benefits usually seen after 6 weeks or more.
- This medicine must be taken for several weeks before its full benefits are felt. Do not stop taking bupropion suddenly because you may experience dizziness, headache, nausea, sweating, increased heart rate or anxiety.

Side Effects and Management

Common (greater than 10 in 100 clients on this medication)

Nausea	Take with food, chew on gum or suck on sugar-free candy. Consult with prescriber if it becomes bothersome.
Dry mouth	Suck on sugarless gum or candy or melt bits of ice in your mouth. Call your prescriber if your mouth feels dry for more than 2 weeks.
Difficulty Sleeping	Avoid taking medication too close to bedtime.

Uncommon (~1 to 10 in 100 clients on this medication)

Dizziness	Get up slowly, and dangle your feet when rising from a chair. Caution when climbing stairs or changing position. Talk to your prescriber.
Constipation	Drink plenty of water and increase fiber and fruits in your diet. Consult your prescriber about other treatments.
Tinnitus	If you experience noises in your ear, such as ringing, buzzing, roaring, whistling or hissing contact your prescriber.
Agitation, anxiety, nervousness	Typically short-term (1-5 days) as system adjusts to medicine. Contact prescriber if persistent.

Risk of seizure increases in patient with a history of seizures, head trauma, CNS tumor, abrupt discontinuation of sedative-hypnotics or ethanol.

Rare (less than 1 in 100 clients on this medication)

Call your prescriber immediately if you experience any of these:

- Extreme restlessness or suicidal thoughts
- Swelling
- Joint pain or leg cramps
- Impotence

- Abnormal liver function
- Muscle side effects including tremor or twitches
- Seizures
- Psychosis – hallucinations, confusion

References: Clinical Psychopharmacology, LexiComp 2011

NOTE: This information is not intended to cover all possible uses, precautions, interactions, or adverse effects for this medication. If you have further questions about the medications you are taking, check with your prescriber.