Sioux Lookout First Nations Health Authority

COMMUNITY WELLBEING ADVISORY

To: Sioux Lookout area Chiefs and Health Directors
From: Dr. Lloyd Douglas, Public Health Physician, Approaches to Community Wellbeing (ACW), SLFNHA
Date: September 24, 2026
Re: **Brand-name Suboxone tablets discontinuation**

Issue

Indivior, the company that makes brand-name Suboxone (buprenorphine/naloxone) tablets, has announced it will stop making this product by the end of 2026. This may affect you or someone you love who takes this medication as part of their healing journey.

Some community leaders have received letters suggesting that people switch to other products, such as Suboxone film or the long-acting injection (Sublocade).

This Community Wellbeing Advisory provides updated information about the issue and explains what is changing, what is not, and what to do next.

What this means for you

- The same medication (buprenorphine/naloxone) will still be available as a tablet, made by other companies. These are often called "generic" versions.
- Generic products contain the same active ingredients and are expected to provide the same effect. However, some people may notice differences in taste or experience after a product change.
- Your experience matters. If something doesn't feel right after any change, tell your healthcare provider.

You are not alone

Addiction medicine physicians, pharmacists, community health directors, nurses, and program staff across the region will be working together to prepare for this transition, so that your care continues without interruption.

We encourage you to bring any questions or concerns to your addiction medicine physician or community physician at your next visit. This medication has supported many people on their path to wellness, and we would like to continue to walk alongside you through this change.

Key message: The medication will continue to be available in Canada, including as generic sublingual tablets. Your healthcare provider can help you plan for the transition.

Recommendations

For community members

- **Keep taking your medication as prescribed.** Do not stop or change your dose on your own.
- **Do not feel pressured to switch** to a different product because of a letter you may have received. Talk with your healthcare provider first about what is best for you.
- **Bring your questions and concerns** to your addiction medicine physician or community physician at your next visit.
- **Tell your healthcare provider right away** if you notice changes after switch to a different product, such as cravings, withdrawal, or side effects.

For healthcare providers

- **Identify patients currently prescribed brand-name Suboxone tablets** and plan for their transition well before the end of 2026.
- **Discuss options with each patient before any change**. Generic buprenorphine/naloxone tablets contain the same medication as brand-name Suboxone. Film and long-acting injection are different formulations and should not be treated as automatic substitutions.
    - When switching formulations, follow the product-specific prescribing guidance and monitor the patient for underdosing, withdrawal or overdose.
- **Ask about and document patient experience** after any switch, including taste, perceived effect, cravings, withdrawal, and side effects, and follow up early.
- **Confirm supply and coverage** with pharmacies and/or your relevant supervisor so there are no gaps in access, particularly for remote communities and nursing stations.
- **Coordinate across the care team** (physicians, pharmacists, nurses, community health directors, and program staff) so patients receive consistent messaging.

We thank all community workers, healthcare providers, and community members for their support in improving health and wellbeing of First Nations people in the Sioux Lookout area.

If you have any questions, please contact:

Maxine Goodman, Harm Reduction Manager, maxine.goodman@slfnha.com, 807-738-3566

or

Dr. Lloyd Douglas, Public Health Physician, l.douglas@slfnha.com, 807-738-3439

cc: Sonia Isaac Mann, Chief Executive Officer and President

SLFNHA Board of Directors

SLFNHA Chiefs Council on Health

Community Health Directors and Physicians

Sioux Lookout area Tribal Councils

Nishnawbe Aski Nation