This patient is taking a combination drug of buprenorphine, a partial opiate agonist, and naloxone, an opioid antagonist (naloxone is only clinically active when abused parenterally). Patients taking buprenorphine may have a diminished response to opiate medications (including those for the management of cough or pain).

Opiate-containing preparations should be avoided when non-opiate therapy is available as an alternative.

Overdose with buprenorphine alone is uncommon. In a situation that a patient taking buprenorphine has overdosed and is unconscious, the primary management should be the re-establishment of adequate ventililation with mechanical assistance if required. Overdose in combination with other CNS depressants should be considered because of the increased potential for life-threatening events. Naloxone may not be effective in reversing any respiratory depression produced by buprenorphine.

In an emergency situation requiring pain relief in patients taking buprenorphine, a suggested plan of management is regional anesthesia, conscious sedation with a benzodiazepine, use of non-opioid analgesics or general anesthesia. In a situation requiring opiate analgesia, the dose of opiate required may be greater than usual. A rapidly acting opiate analgesic, which minimizes the duration of respiratory depression, should be used. The dose of opioid medication should be titrated against the patient's analgesic and physiological response, with close monitoring by trained staff.

Opiate-containing preparations should be avoided when non-opiate therapy is available as an alternative.
I am prescribed Buprenorphine, a partial opioid agonist. In case of emergency, call 911 for medical assistance.

Name: ________________________________________________________________

Phone Number: ________________________________________________________

Physician’s Name: _______________________________________________________

Physician’s Phone Number: ______________________________________________

- **Buprenorphine can affect opioid pain medication** -

Contact Person’s Name: __________________________________________________

Contact Person’s Phone Number: __________________________________________

Contact Person’s Relationship: ____________________________________________

Important documentation about buprenorphine: www.naabt.org/emergency

naabt.org