**Appendix 1: Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale**

**Appendix 2: Treatment algorithm**

**Patients assessed for eligibility in the emergency department:**

Meets DSM-5 criteria for opioid use disorder

In mild opioid withdrawal (Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale > 5)

No opioid use in previous 12 hours

Not on methadone

Consents to receiving buprenorphine/naloxone treatment

**Initiate buprenorphine/naloxone in the emergency department:**

Provide 2-4 mg sublingually

Dose is witnessed by nurse to ensure medication has fully dissolved

**Reassess in 1-2 hours using the Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale**

If still in opioid withdrawal (Clinical Opiate Withdrawal Scale > 5), administer another dose of buprenorphine/naloxone (2-4 mg sublingually)

**Maximum dose in emergency department:** 8 mg SL

**Discharge from emergency department with:**

Patient information package on opioid withdrawal symptoms, options for managing opioid withdrawal, contact information for clinics prescribing methadone and buprenorphine/naloxone, and information regarding outpatient case management programs

Patient instructed to go to rapid access addiction clinic the next morning to make an appointment (same day appointments available) and to receive next dose of buprenorphine/naloxone

**Information faxed to community-based rapid access addiction clinic (RAAC) before discharge from the emergency department:**

Prescription for up to 3 daily observed doses of buprenorphine/naloxone to bridge patient until seen at RAAC

Request for pharmacy to provide take-home naloxone, including instructions for use

Referral to RAAC for assessment and management

**Patient attends RAAC appointment**

**Appendix 3: Chart selection for review**

**Generated list of all emergency department patients triaged with presenting complaint of substance withdrawal between April 2017 – December 2017 at Lakeridge Health**

**Charts were reviewed for patients presenting specifically in opioid withdrawal**

**Charts were reviewed for patients offered education packages on opioid**

**withdrawal, treated with buprenorphine/naloxone in the emergency department,**

**and referred to the outpatient RAAC**

**Charts were reviewed for patients seen at the outpatient RAAC that**

**were referred from the emergency department**

* Follow-up time and status at 6 months post-referral