

**Practical tips for prescribing bupropion:**

**Don't exceed the maximum *single* dose of bupropion for any of the formulations above.** A patient who takes bupropion SR 300mg daily instead of bupropion SR 150mg BID has peak plasma concentrations of bupropion that put them at a higher risk of seizures. I tell patients who are unsure if they took their bupropion one day, it's better to accidentally skip the day than to accidentally take too much. If they missed a day, they should not double their dose the next day.

**Avoid evening dosing:** The bupropion XL formulation is dosed once daily in the morning, making it easier for patients to take as prescribed. Bupropion SR at doses over 200mg needs to be dosed BID. To decrease insomnia from bupropion SR, take the first dose in the morning and the second one 8 hours later in the mid-afternoon.

**Don't split or crush bupropion SR or bupropion XL pills** or they will lose their controlled release, leading to higher peak levels and a higher risk of seizures.

**Avoid the need for prior authorizations** by prescribing Bupropion XL 450mg daily as two pills: Bupropion XL 150mg + Bupropion XL 300mg daily (taken at the same time). The bupropion XL 450mg pill (branded Forfivo XL has a retail cost of more than \$400/month), while the combination of Bupropion XL 150mg + Bupropion XL 300mg daily costs around \$100/month.

Bupropion Form	Maximum Daily Dose	Maximum Single Dose
Bupropion (immediate release)	450mg (dosed 150mg TID)	150mg
Bupropion SR (sustained release)	400 mg (dosed 200mg BID)	200mg
Bupropion XL (extended release)	450mg (dosed 450mg daily)	450mg