FAIRVIEW PHARMACY — EST. 1978

Taking bupropion safely

bupropion · also sold as Wellbutrin · SR/XL: once daily, morning

3 MISTAKES TO AVOID

1 Crushing or splitting the tablet

Swallow SR and XL tablets whole (XL once a day, morning). Breaking it can flood your body with the drug and raise seizure risk.

2 Missing a seizure risk

Never combine it with an MAO inhibitor, and don't stop alcohol or sedatives suddenly.

3 Hiding what else you take

It can cause a false-positive drug test. Tell your pharmacist about every medicine.

How to take it

- **Swallow SR and XL tablets whole.** The XL tablet is taken once a day in the morning, with or without food.
- **Never crush, split, chew, or double up** an SR or XL dose. Breaking it releases the drug too fast and raises seizure risk.
- Your prescriber usually starts at a lower dose and raises it after a few days.

Seizure risk (mistake #2)

- Not safe with a seizure disorder, or a current or past eating disorder like anorexia or bulimia.
- Don't suddenly stop alcohol, benzodiazepines, barbiturates, or other seizure medicines while on bupropion.

Medicines that cannot mix

- **MAO inhibitors:** never combine, and wait **14 days** either way before switching.
- Don't start bupropion if you're being treated with linezolid or IV methylene blue.

IMPORTANT

Bupropion carries a boxed warning: in children, teens and young adults, antidepressants can raise the risk of suicidal thoughts and actions.

Call your doctor right away if you notice

- New or worse depression, anxiety, agitation, or thoughts of suicide, especially in the first few months or after a dose change.
- Seeing or hearing things that are not real, feeling very suspicious, or confusion.
- A false-positive urine drug test for amphetamines can happen. Tell anyone who tests you that you take bupropion.

EMERGENCY: CALL 911

A seizure, or rash, hives, swelling of the face or throat, or trouble breathing.

Thoughts of suicide? Call or text **988** (Suicide & Crisis Lifeline), any time.

Good to know

Mention bipolar disorder, high blood pressure, and kidney or liver problems.

Questions? Ask Dr. Mike at fairviewpharm.com/medications

Leave a message: 601-640-4671 · 500 Katie Ave, Hattiesburg, MS

Medically reviewed by Dr. Mike Acheampong, Pharmacist, Fairview Pharmacy · October 2026

This handout is for education only and is not medical advice. Talk with your doctor or pharmacist about your medicines.
Source: FDA prescribing information and Medication Guide for WELLBUTRIN XL (rev. 11/2025). WELLBUTRIN is a trademark of its owner.

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