What is claimed is:

1. A film dosage composition comprising:

a. A polymeric carrier matrix;

b. A therapeutically effective amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

c. A therapeutically effective amount of naloxone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

d. A buffer in an amount to provide a local pH ~~of~~ for said composition of a value sufficient to optimize absorption of said buprenorphine, wherein said local pH is from about 3 to about 3.5 in the presence of saliva.

~~2. The composition of claim 1, wherein said local pH is about 2 to about 4.~~

~~3. The composition of claim 2, wherein the local pH of said composition is from about 3 to about 4.~~

42. The composition of claim 1, wherein said film dosage composition provides a bioequivalent absorption of buprenorphine to that of a tablet having an equivalent amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

53. The composition of claim 1, wherein said polymeric carrier matrix comprises at least one polymer in an amount of at least 25% by weight of said composition.

64. The composition of claim 1, wherein said buffer is present in an amount of from about 2:1 to about 1:5 by weight of buffer to buprenorphine.

75. The composition of claim 1, wherein said polymeric carrier matrix comprises at least one self-supporting film forming polymer.

86. The film dosage composition of claim 1, wherein said buprenorphine is present in an amount of from about 2 mg to about 16 mg per dosage.

97. The film dosage composition of claim 1, wherein said buffer comprises sodium citrate, citric acid, and combinations thereof.

~~10~~8. The film dosage composition of claim 1, wherein said buffer comprises acetic acid, sodium acetate, and combinations thereof.

~~11. A film dosage composition comprising:~~

~~a. A polymeric carrier matrix;~~

~~b. A therapeutically effective amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;~~

c. A therapeutically effective amount of naloxone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

d. A buffer in an amount sufficient to inhibit the absorption of said naloxone when administered orally.

12. The composition of claim 11, wherein said composition has a local pH of about 2 to about 4.

13. The composition of claim 11, wherein said buffer is present in an amount sufficient to provide a therapeutically adequate absorption of buprenorphine.

14. The composition of claim 13, wherein a therapeutically adequate absorption of buprenorphine comprises a bioequivalent level of absorption of buprenorphine as a tablet having an equivalent amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

15. A film dosage composition comprising:

a. A polymeric carrier matrix;

b. A therapeutically effective amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

c. A therapeutically effective amount of naloxone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

d. A buffering system;

wherein said buffering system comprises a buffer capacity sufficient to maintain the ionization of naloxone during the time which said composition is in the oral cavity of a user.

16. The composition of claim 15, wherein said composition has a local pH of about 2 to about 4.

17. A method of treating narcotic dependence of a user, comprising the steps of:

a. providing a composition comprising:

i. A polymeric carrier matrix;

ii. A therapeutically effective amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

iii. A therapeutically effective amount of naloxone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

iv. A buffer in an amount to provide a local pH of about 3 to about 3.5 for said composition of a value sufficient to optimize absorption of said buprenorphine and also sufficient to inhibit absorption of said naloxone; and

b. administering said composition to the oral cavity of a user.

1810. The composition method of claim 179, wherein said method provides a bioequivalent absorption of buprenorphine to that of a tablet having an equivalent amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

19. The method of claim 17, wherein said composition has a local pH of about 2 to about 4.

2011. The method of claim 179, wherein said film dosage composition is administered to the user through buccal administration, sublingual administration, and combinations thereof.

2112. The method of claim 179, wherein said film dosage composition remains in the oral cavity of the user for a period of at least 1 minute.

2213. The method of claim 179, wherein said film dosage composition remains in the oral cavity of the user for a period of between about 1 and 1.5 minutes.

2314. The method of claim 179, wherein said film dosage composition remains in the oral cavity of the user for a period of up to 3 minutes.

24. A process of forming a film dosage composition comprising the steps of:

a. casting a film-forming composition, said film-forming composition comprising:

i. A polymeric carrier matrix;

ii. A therapeutically effective amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

iii. A therapeutically effective amount of naloxone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

iv. A buffer in an amount to provide a local pH of said composition of a value sufficient to optimize absorption of said buprenorphine; and

b. drying said film-forming composition to form a self-supporting film dosage composition.

25. The process of claim 24, wherein said composition has a local pH of about 2 to about 4.

26. A film dosage composition comprising a therapeutically sufficient amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof and a therapeutically sufficient amount of naloxone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, said film dosage composition having a bioequivalent release

~~profile as a tablet containing about 2 times the amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.~~

~~27~~15. An orally dissolving film formulation comprising buprenorphine and naloxone, wherein said formulation provides an in vivo plasma profile having a Cmax of between about 0.624 ng/ml and about 5.638 ng/ml for buprenorphine and an in vivo plasma profile having a Cmax of between about 41.04 pg/ml to about 323.75 pg/ml for naloxone.

~~28~~16. The formulation of claim ~~27~~15, wherein said formulation provides a mean AUC of between about 5.431 hr.ng/ml to about 56.238 hr.ng/ml for buprenorphine.

~~29~~17. The formulation of claim ~~27~~15, wherein said formulation provides a mean AUC of between about 102.88 hr.pg/ml to about 812.00 hr.pg/ml for naloxone.

~~30~~18. The formulation of claim ~~27~~15, wherein said formulation comprises about 2 to about 16 mg of buprenorphine or a salt thereof.

~~31~~19. The formulation of claim ~~27~~15, wherein said formulation comprises about 0.5 to about 4 mg of naloxone or a salt thereof.

20. Use of a composition comprising:

i. A polymeric carrier matrix;

ii. A therapeutically effective amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof;

iii. A therapeutically effective amount of naloxone or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof; and

iv. A buffer in an amount to provide a local pH of about 3 to about 3.5 for said composition of a value sufficient to optimize absorption of said buprenorphine and also sufficient to inhibit absorption of said naloxone;

for the manufacture of a medicament for treating narcotic dependence of a user, wherein said composition is to be administered to the oral cavity of the user.

21. The use of claim 20, wherein said use provides a bioequivalent absorption of buprenorphine to that of a tablet having an equivalent amount of buprenorphine or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

22. The use of claim 20, wherein said composition is to be administered to the user through buccal administration, sublingual administration, and combinations thereof.

23. The use of claim 20, wherein said composition is to be remained in the oral cavity of the user for a period of at least 1 minute.

24. The use of claim 20, wherein said composition is to be remained in the oral cavity of the user for a period of between about 1 and 1.5 minutes.

25. The use of claim 20, wherein said composition is to be remained in the oral cavity of the user for a period of up to 3 minutes.