



ASAM The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

Medicaid Coverage of Medications for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

In Massachusetts between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone **increased 61.4%**. In 2012 in Massachusetts, **14.1%** of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment^a.

MASSACHUSETTS

State Benefits at a Glance^b...

Methadone

Massachusetts Medicaid covers methadone under Managed Care (MC) plans. In order to receive coverage for methadone for the treatment of opioid use disorder, federal law mandates that patients are enrolled in, or have documented proof of, substance use disorder (SUD) counseling. Methadone is covered as a medical benefit under MC plans. Additionally, methadone is covered for use in accredited outpatient narcotic treatment programs (NTPs) under both plans.

Buprenorphine/Naloxone film (Suboxone[®]), Buprenorphine/Naloxone tablets (generic), Buprenorphine/Naloxone tablets (Zubsolv^{®c}) and Buprenorphine tablets (generic).

Medication Limitations

Massachusetts Medicaid covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets under Fee-For-Service (FFS) and MC plans with the following limitations:

- Patients do not need to be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD* counseling in order to be approved for Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets.
- Patients taking Suboxone and buprenorphine/naloxone tablets can receive 16-32mg/daily for up to 180 days. After 180 days, patients must receive prior authorization.
- Buprenorphine tablets are authorized for pregnancy, however rationale must be provided for prescribing buprenorphine tablets over buprenorphine/naloxone tablets.
- For doses of buprenorphine/naloxone tablets in excess of 32mg/day prior authorization is required.
- Suboxone is subject to step therapy.
- Zubsolv appears on Massachusetts Medicaid's Preferred Drug List.
- In most cases, Zubsolv is subject to the same prior authorization requirements as the surveyed buprenorphine products.

Massachusetts covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets as a pharmacy benefit under both FFS and MC plans, and all medications are listed on preferred drug list for FFS and MC plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are covered for use in physician's offices under MC and FFS plans.



State Benefits at a Glance (continued)...

Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL®)

Massachusetts Medicaid covers injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol®) under FFS and MC plans. Patients **do not** need to be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD* counseling for Vivitrol coverage.

- Vivitrol is covered as a medical and pharmacy benefit under FFS and MC plans.
- Vivitrol appears on the preferred drug list under FFS and MC plans.

Vivitrol is covered for use in physician’s offices under plans.

^a Data from SAMHSA’s State and Metro Reports accessed http://www.samhsa.gov/data/States_In_Brief_Reports.aspx

^b Data as of spring 2014.

^c Zubsolv was not included in the original survey, as the medication was not FDA approved until fall of 2013. This summary reflects only information related to Preferred Drug List (PDL) and formulary inclusion obtained from pharmacy and State websites.

*In Massachusetts, substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling is a covered Medicaid benefit under FFS and MC plans.

Massachusetts also provides additional coverage of methadone maintenance to the uninsured through SAPT / state funds.

Medicaid Benefits for Treatment of Opioid Dependence Nationwide

Number of Medications Covered under Fee-For-Service Medicaid Plans By State

