



ASAM The Voice of Addiction Medicine
American Society of Addiction Medicine

Medicaid Coverage of Medications for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

In Vermont between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone **increased 65.7%**. In 2012 in Vermont, **14.9%** of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment^α.

VERMONT



State Benefits at a Glance^β...

Methadone

Vermont Medicaid covers methadone under Fee-For-Service (FFS) and 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 FFS plans. Patients must be 18 years and older, and methadone can be used during pregnancy. Duration of treatment and dosage can be determined as needed. Methadone is not on the preferred drug list, however, it is covered for use in accredited outpatient treatment programs (OTPs), under FFS plans.

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

Medication Limitations

Vermont Medicaid covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets under FFS plans with the following limitations:

- In order to approve Suboxone for the treatment of opioid use disorder, patients must be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD* counseling. This is not a requirement for other forms of buprenorphine.
- Patients must be 18 years and older.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are dispensed in 14 day supplies in physician's offices.
- Only buprenorphine tablets are available for use during pregnancy.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets require prior authorization for use over 16mg.
- Zubsolv appears on Vermont Medicaid's Preferred Drug List.
- In most cases, Zubsolv is subject to the same prior authorization requirements as the surveyed buprenorphine products.

Vermont covers Suboxone and Buprenorphine tablets as a medical and pharmacy benefit under FFS plans; buprenorphine/naloxone tablets are covered as a pharmacy benefit, under FFS plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are on the preferred drug list under FFS plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are covered for use in physician's offices and organized specialty outpatient treatment settings (OTPs), under FFS plans.



State Benefits at a Glance (continued)...

Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL®)

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

- Vivitrol is covered as a pharmacy benefit under FFS plans.
- Vivitrol is available for patients 18 years and up.
- Duration of Vivitrol treatment is 6 months, injections of 380mg take place once every 30 days.
- Vivitrol use requires prior authorization, and patients must first fail Suboxone.
- Vivitrol appears on Vermont’s preferred drug list under FFS plans.

Vivitrol is covered in physician’s offices and OTPs under FFS plans.

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

^β Data as of spring 2014.

^γ 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 Vermont, substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling is a covered Medicaid under FFS plans.

Vermont is implementing a “hub and spoke” design for provision of medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

Medicaid Benefits for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder Nationwide

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

