



**ASAM** The Voice of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Addiction Medicine

## Medicaid Coverage of Medications for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder

In Virginia between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone **increased 37.3%**. In 2012 in Virginia, **18.8%** of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment<sup>a</sup>.

# VIRGINIA

### State Benefits at a Glance<sup>b</sup>...

#### Methadone

Virginia 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 pharmacy benefit under FFS and managed care plans, and is authorized for use during pregnancy. Methadone appears on Virginia's preferred drug list under both plans. Methadone is covered for use in accredited outpatient narcotic treatment programs (NTPs) under FFS and MC plans.

#### **Buprenorphine/Naloxone film (Suboxone<sup>®</sup>), Buprenorphine/Naloxone tablets (generic), Buprenorphine/Naloxone tablets (Zubsolv<sup>®c</sup>) and Buprenorphine tablets (generic).**

##### Medication Limitations

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

- In order to approve Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets for the treatment of opioid use disorder, patients must be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD\* counseling.
- These medications are approved for use for patients aged 16 years and up.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are approved for use during pregnancy.
- Treatment using these medications is limited to a 24-month period with a maximum dosage of 16mg/day.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets require prior authorization for use.
- Zubsolv appears on Virginia Medicaid's Preferred Drug List.
- In most cases, Zubsolv is subject to the same prior authorization requirements as the surveyed buprenorphine products.

Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are covered as a pharmacy benefit under both FFS and MC plans. Suboxone and Buprenorphine tablets are on VA's preferred drug list under FFS plans. Alternatively, Suboxone is not on the preferred drug list under MC plans, however, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are covered for use in NTPs, under both FFS and MC plans, and are covered in physician's offices, under FFS plans.



## State Benefits at a Glance (continued)...

### Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL®)

Virginia Medicaid covers injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol®) under both FFS and MC plans. Patients **must** be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD\* counseling for Vivitrol coverage under MC plans only.

- Vivitrol is covered as a medical benefit under FFS plans and a pharmacy benefit under MC plans.
- Vivitrol does not appear on the preferred drug list under FFS or MC plans.
- Prior authorization is not required for Vivitrol use.

Vivitrol is covered for use in NTPs and physician’s offices under both FFS and MC plans.

<sup>α</sup> Data from SAMHSA’s State and Metro Reports accessed [http://www.samhsa.gov/data/States\\_In\\_Brief\\_Reports.aspx](http://www.samhsa.gov/data/States_In_Brief_Reports.aspx)

<sup>β</sup> Data as of spring 2014.

<sup>γ</sup> 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 Virginia, substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling is a covered Medicaid benefit under FFS and MC plans.

## Medicaid Benefits for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder Nationwide

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

