



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

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

In Iowa between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone **increased 42.5%**. In 2012 in Iowa, **14.6%** of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment<sup>a</sup>.



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

#### Methadone

Iowa Medicaid does not cover methadone under Fee-For-Service (FFS) plans.

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

#### Medication Limitations

Iowa Medicaid covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets under FFS 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.
- Treatment using Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets is limited to a maximum of 16mg/day after a 3-month period.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets renewals require documentation of attempts to medically taper.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets require prior authorization for use.
- Zubsolv does not appear on Iowa Medicaid's formulary.

Iowa covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets as a pharmacy benefit under FFS plans.

Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are not listed on Iowa's preferred drug list for FFS plans. Suboxone, Buprenorphine/Naloxone tablets, and Buprenorphine tablets are not covered for use in physician's offices, but are covered for use in organized specialty outpatient treatment programs (OTPs) under FFS plans.



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

### Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL®)

Iowa Medicaid covers injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol®) under 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 medical and pharmacy benefit under FFS plans.
- Vivitrol does not appear on Iowa's preferred drug list under FFS plans.
- Vivitrol requires prior authorization for use.

Vivitrol is covered for use in physician's office-based settings as well as OTPs under FFS plans.

<sup>a</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>b</sup> Data as of spring 2014.

<sup>c</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 Iowa, substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling is a covered Medicaid benefit under FFS plans.

## Medicaid Benefits for Treatment of Opioid Dependence Nationwide

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

