



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

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

In New York between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone **increased 1.0%**. In 2012 in New York, **11.9%** of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment<sup>a</sup>.

# NEW YORK

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

#### Methadone

New York 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 both FFS and MC plans. There is no age limit on the use of methadone, but the maximum daily dose is 12mg. Methadone does not appear on New York's preferred drug list under FFS plans, but does appear on the preferred drug list under MC 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

New York Medicaid covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets under 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 access these medications
- Dosage of Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets should not exceed 24mg/day and are limited to 3 doses per day.
- With the exception of use during pregnancy, buprenorphine tablets are limited to 2 days of use.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets require prior authorization for use.
- Zubsolv appears on New York Medicaid's Preferred Drug List.
- In most cases, Zubsolv is subject to the same prior authorization requirements as the surveyed buprenorphine products.

New York covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets as a pharmacy benefit under both FFS and MC plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are not listed on New York's preferred drug list for FFS plans, but all appear on the preferred drug list under MC plans. All are covered for use in NTPs under both FFS and MC plans.



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

### Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL®)

New York Medicaid covers injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol®) under both 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 benefit under both FFS and MC plans.
- Vivitrol does not appear on New York's preferred drug list under FFS plans, but does appear on the preferred drug list under MC plans.
- Prior authorization is not required for Vivitrol coverage.

Vivitrol is covered for use in accredited NTPs under FFS and MC plans, but is not covered in physician's offices under either plan.

<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 New York, substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling is a not 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

