In Tennessee between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone increased 18.8%. In 2012 in Tennessee, 12.1% of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment.

State Benefits at a Glance...

Methadone

Tennessee Medicaid does not cover methadone.

Buprenorphine/Naloxone film (Suboxone ®), Buprenorphine/Naloxone tablets (generic), Buprenorphine/Naloxone tablets (Zubsolv ®) and Buprenorphine tablets (generic).

Medication Limitations

Tennessee Medicaid covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets under Fee-For-Service (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 under FFS and Managed Care (MC) plans.
- For Suboxone and buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, treatment is limited to 16mg/day for the first 6 months and 8mg/day thereafter.
- Only buprenorphine tablets are approved for use during pregnancy.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets require prior authorization for use.
- Zubsolv appears on Tennessee Medicaid’s Preferred Drug List.
- In most cases, Zubsolv is subject to the same prior authorization requirements as the surveyed buprenorphine products.

Tennessee 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 Tennessee’s preferred drug list under FFS plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are covered for use in accredited outpatient narcotic treatment programs (NTPs) under FFS plans and in physician’s offices under MC plans.
Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL®)

Tennessee Medicaid covers injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol®) under FFS plans. Patients must need to be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD* counseling for Vivitrol coverage.
- Vivitrol is covered as a pharmacy benefit under both FFS and MC plans.
- Use of Vivitrol requires prior authorization.
- Vivitrol does not appear on Tennessee’s preferred drug list under FFS plans.

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

As of spring 2014, state pain management guidelines are being developed. These may or may not include opiate dependence treatment information.

Medicaid Benefits for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder Nationwide

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