



# ASAM

The Voice of Addiction Medicine  
American Society of Addiction Medicine

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

In Alabama between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone **increased 21%**. In 2012 in Alabama, **12.2%** of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment<sup>a</sup>.

# ALABAMA



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

#### Methadone

Alabama Medicaid covers methadone under Fee-For-Service (FFS) plans only. 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. The state of Alabama considers methadone coverage a pharmacy benefit under FFS plans. Methadone is listed on Alabama's formulary/preferred drug list under FFS plans and is covered in accredited outpatient narcotic treatment programs (NTPs) or outpatient treatment programs (OTPs) under 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

Alabama Medicaid covers buprenorphine/naloxone tablets and buprenorphine tablets under FFS plans with the following limitations:

- In order to approve these medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, patients are not required to be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD\* counseling.
- Treatment using these medications requires proof of failed step therapy.
- These medications require prior authorization for use.
- Zubsolv appears on Alabama Medicaid's Non-Preferred Drug List.
- In most cases, Zubsolv is subject to the same prior authorization requirements as the surveyed buprenorphine products.

Alabama 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 Alabama's preferred drug list for FFS or Managed Care (MC) plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are covered for use in accredited NTPs and OTPs under FFS plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are not covered under in physician's offices.



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

### Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL®)

Alabama 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 pharmacy benefit under FFS plans.
- Vivitrol does not appear on Alabama's preferred drug list.
- Use of Vivitrol requires proof of failed step therapy.
- Vivitrol is not covered for use in physician's offices under FFS plans, however, it is covered for use in NTPs and 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)

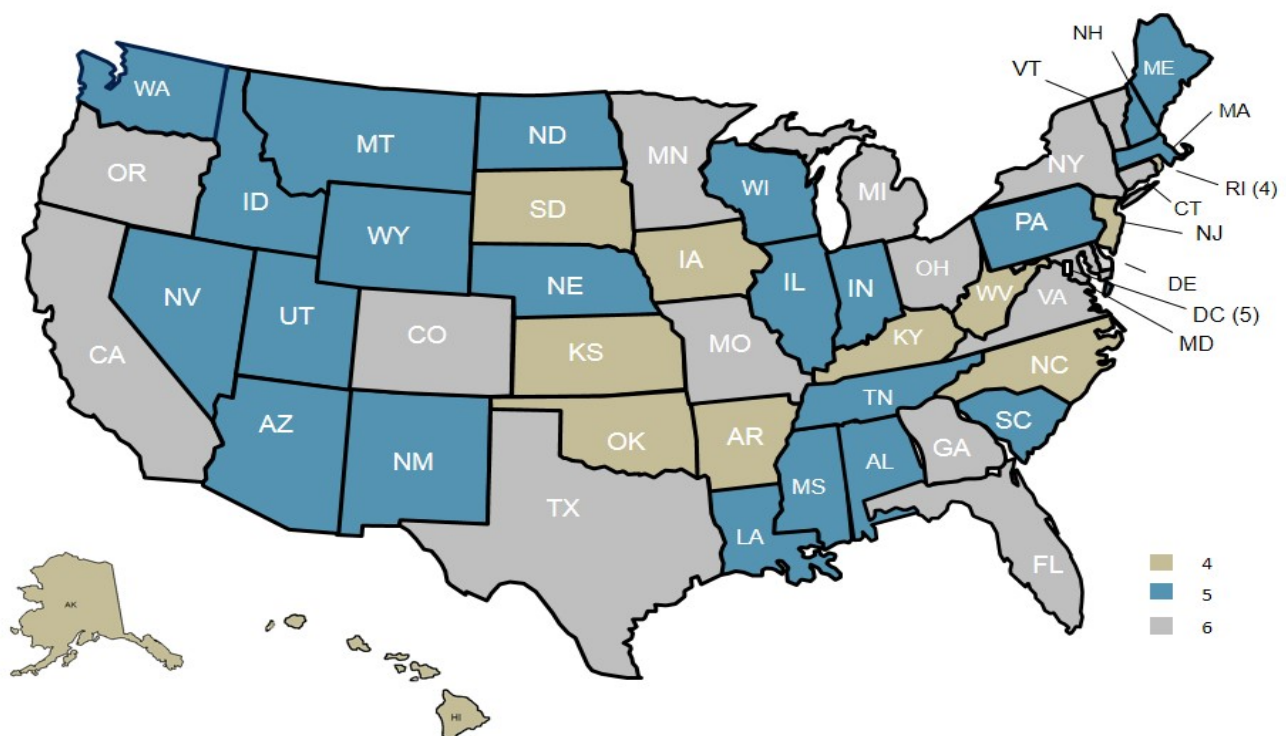
<sup>b</sup> Data as of spring 2014.

<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 Alabama, 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



Data collected by the Avisa Group and Treatment Research Institute 2013-2014