



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

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

In California between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone **increased 8.7%**. In 2012 in California, **13.4%** of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment<sup>a</sup>.

# CALIFORNIA

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

#### Methadone

California Medicaid covers methadone under Fee-For-Service (FFS) plans but not 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. The state of California covers methadone as a medical benefit under FFS plans. Methadone is covered in accredited outpatient narcotic treatment programs (NTPs) 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

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

- Patients are required to be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD\* counseling in order to be approved for Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets.
- California covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets as a pharmacy benefit under FFS plans.
- Zubsolv appears on California 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 not listed on California's preferred drug list for FFS or MC plans. Additionally, Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are not covered for use in NTP settings under FFS plans, but are covered in physician's offices under FFS plans.



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