



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

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

In Washington, DC between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone **decreased 16.2%**. In 2012 in DC, **23.9%** of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment<sup>α</sup>.



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

#### Methadone

DC Medicaid covers methadone under Fee-For-Service (FFS) 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.

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

#### Medication Limitations

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

- Patients must be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD\* counseling before receiving Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets require prior authorization for use.
- DC covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets as a pharmacy benefit under FFS plans.
- Zubsolv appears on Washington, DC 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 DC's preferred drug list for FFS plans.

No information was reported at the time of survey as to the coverage of Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets in accredited outpatient narcotic treatment programs (NTPs), organized specialty outpatient treatment programs (OTPs) or physician's offices.



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

### Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL®)

Injectable Naltrexone does not appear on DC's preferred drug list for FFS plans. No further information was provided with respect to Vivitrol coverage.

<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 Washington, DC, 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

