



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

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

In North  
Carolina  
between

# NORTH CAROLINA

2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use treatment programs that prescribed methadone **increased 28.6%**. In 2012 in North Carolina, **11.0%** of persons aged 12 and older who met criteria for having a drug use disorder received treatment<sup>a</sup>.

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

#### Methadone

North Carolina Medicaid covers methadone under Managed Care (MC) 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. Methadone is covered as a medical benefit under MC plans. Additionally, methadone is covered for use in accredited outpatient narcotic treatment programs (NTPs) under 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

North Carolina Medicaid covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets under Fee-For-Service (FFS) and MC plans with the following limitations:

- Patients are not required to be enrolled in, or have documented proof of, SUD\* counseling for Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets.
- Suboxone is initially authorized for 12 months, and renewal requires a treatment plan.
- The maximum daily dosage of Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets after 6 months is 24mg.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets require prior authorization for use.
- Buprenorphine tablets are available for use during pregnancy with prior authorization.
- Zubsolv does not appear on North Carolina Medicaid's formulary.

North Carolina covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets as a pharmacy benefit under FFS plans and as a medical benefit under MC plans. Only Suboxone is listed on the state's preferred drug list for FFS plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are covered for use in accredited outpatient narcotic treatment programs (NTPs) under MC plans only.



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

### Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL<sup>®</sup>)

North Carolina Medicaid covers injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol<sup>®</sup>) under 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 and pharmacy benefit under FFS plans and as a medical benefit under MC plans.

Vivitrol is covered for use in NTPs, under MC plans, and in physician's offices and organized specialty treatment programs (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 North Carolina, substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling is a covered Medicaid benefit under FFS and MC plans.

**North Carolina provides additional coverage of methadone maintenance to the uninsured through SAPT / state funds.**

## Medicaid Benefits for Treatment of Opioid Dependence Nationwide

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