



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

In Washington between 2008-2012, persons enrolled in substance use

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treatment programs that prescribed methadone **increased 22.4%**. In 2012 in Washington, **11.0%** 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

Washington Medicaid covers methadone under Fee-for-Service (FFS) and 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. Methadone does not appear on preferred drug lists under either FFS or MC plans, however, methadone is covered for use in accredited outpatient narcotic treatment programs (NTPs).

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

##### Medication Limitations

Washington Medicaid covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets under FFS and MC 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 performed by a DBHR Certified Chemical Dependency Agency.
- Treatment using Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets is limited to a 6-month period, with the option to renew for 6 months.
- The maximum daily dosage of Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets, after 6 months, is 24mg.
- Only buprenorphine is approved for use during pregnancy.
- Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets require prior authorization for use.
- No information was provided for Zubsolv.

Washington covers Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets as a pharmacy benefit under both FFS and MC plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are not listed on Washington's preferred drug list under either FFS or MC plans. Suboxone, buprenorphine/naloxone tablets, and buprenorphine tablets are covered for use in NTPs only.



State Benefits at a Glance (continued)...

**Injectable Naltrexone (VIVITROL®)**

Washington Medicaid covers injectable naltrexone (Vivitrol®) under both FFS and MC plans. Patients **must** 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 Washington’s preferred drug list under either FFS or MC plans.
- Prior authorization is required for Vivitrol use.

Vivitrol is covered for use in NTPs only.

<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, substance Use Disorder (SUD) counseling is a covered Medicaid benefit under FFS and MC plans.

**As of June 2013, Washington was considering a review of policies concerning medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder.**

**Medicaid Benefits for Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder Nationwide**

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

