



***The Bulletin of
Medicaid Drug
Utilization Review
in Iowa***

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**Medication Coverage for
Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT)**

Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) programs, including opioid treatment programs (OTP), combine use of various counseling and behavioral therapies and medications to treat substance use disorders, including opioid use disorder. Federal legislation, regulations and guidelines govern MAT for opioid addiction. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) oversees accreditation standards and certification processes or OTP. Applicable federal law requires patients who receive treatment for these types of programs to receive medical, behavioral and other assessment or treatment services, in addition to the prescribed medication.

Methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone are FDA approved medications for treatment of opioid addiction. Site of service restrictions (i.e., medical vs. outpatient pharmacy benefit coverage) are consistent with the intent of the laws for treatment and consistent with an entity's ability to bill Medicaid.

- Patients taking methadone to treat opioid addiction must receive the medication under the supervision of a physician. By law, methadone can only be dispensed through an OTP certified by SAMHSA.
- Unlike methadone treatment, which must be performed in a highly structured clinic, buprenorphine is permitted to be prescribed or dispensed in physician offices, to treat opioid dependency.
- Naltrexone comes in pill form or as an injectable. Oral naltrexone can be prescribed by any health care provider who is licensed to prescribe medications. The injectable form is administered intramuscular (IM) once a month.

Coverage of drugs for MAT are as follows:

- Iowa Medicaid MEDICAL benefit
 - Methadone - no prior authorization (PA) required
 - Buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine transmucosal products (i.e. brands Bunavail, Suboxone, Zubsolv) – no PA required
 - Naltrexone injectable – PA required
- Iowa Medicaid PHARMACY benefit
 - Methadone – not covered through pharmacy benefit for MAT
 - Buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine transmucosal products (i.e. brands Bunavail, Suboxone, Zubsolv) – PA required, Suboxone is the preferred agent
 - Naltrexone
 - Injectable – not covered through pharmacy benefit for MAT
 - Oral – no PA required

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Medication Coverage for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) (continued)

It is recognized that injectable methadone products are not approved for outpatient treatment but may be utilized in the inpatient setting for use in temporary treatment of opioid dependence in patients unable to take oral medication. For detoxification and maintenance of opioid dependence, methadone should be administered in accordance with the treatment standards cited in 42 CFR Section 8, including limitations on unsupervised administration.

It is important to note that methadone prescribed for use in pain management is covered under the Iowa Medicaid Pharmacy benefit. Methadone, for the purpose of MAT is covered under the Iowa Medicaid medical benefit and can only be provided by SAMHSA/DEA approved and state of Iowa Licensed OTPs.

For additional information regarding medication coverage for MAT see Informational Letter NO. 1837:
https://dhs.iowa.gov/sites/default/files/1837-MC-FFS_MedicationAssistedTreatment.pdf

High Dose Opioids

Effective July 1, 2018, PA is required for use of high dose opioids \geq 200 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) per day. Patients undergoing active cancer treatment or end-of-life care will not be subject to PA criteria. The MME edit will gradually be decreased over time to 90 MME per day.

PA requests should be submitted on the High Dose Opioids PA form found at:

<http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/sites/default/files/ghs-files/appeals/2018-05-24/high-dose-opioids-pa-form-npi-july-18.pdf>

**Medicaid Statistics for Prescription Claims
May/June 2018**

	FFS	Amerigroup	United Healthcare
# Paid Claims	29,922	440,117	833,272
Total Dollars Paid	\$1,716,916	\$32,559,345	\$58,465,039
# Unique Users	7,536	76,649	154,918
Average Cost/Rx	\$57.38	\$73.98	\$70.16
Top 5 Drugs by Prescription Count	Hydrocodone/APAP	Omeprazole	Omeprazole
	Sertraline	Lisinopril	Lisinopril
	Gabapentin	Levothyroxine	Levothyroxine
	Lisinopril	Atorvastatin	Atorvastatin
	Trazodone	Gabapentin	Hydrocodone/APAP
Top 5 Drugs by Paid Amount (pre-rebate)	Vyvanse	Vyvanse	Vyvanse
	Humalog	Humira Pen	Humira Pen
	Invega Sustenna	Latuda	Latuda
	Novolog FlexPen	Humalog	Humalog
	Emlaza	Lantus	Lantus
Top 5 Therapeutic Class by Paid Amount (pre-rebate) Therapeutic class taxonomy differs among each plan	Antipsychotics - Atypicals	ADHD/Anti-Narcolepsy	Insulins
	Anticonvulsants	Antidiabetics	Antipsychotics – Atypical, Dopamine, Serotonin Antagonist
	Anti-Inflammatories, Non-NSAID	Antiasthmatic & Bronchodilator Agents	Anti-Inflammatory TNF Inhibitors
	Diabetic – Insulin Penfills	Antipsychotic/AntiManic Agents	Tx for ADHD/Narcolepsy
	Diabetic - Insulin	Analgesics – Anti-Inflammatory	Adrenergics, Aromatic, Non-Catecholamine
Top 5 Therapeutic Class by Prescription Count Therapeutic class taxonomy differs among each plan	Antidepressants – Selected SSRIs	Antidepressants	SSRIs
	Anticonvulsants	Antiasthmatic & Bronchodilator Agents	Anticonvulsants
	Antipsychotics - Atypical.	Anticonvulsants	PPIs
	Narcotics – Misc.	Antihypertensives	Analgesics, Narcotics
	Antiasthmatic – Beta Adrenergics	Ulcer Drugs	NSAIDs, COX Inhibitor Type Analgesics