



Payment Policy

Subject: Medication Assisted Therapy

Programs Covered: OH Medicaid, KY Medicaid, OH Special Needs Program, OH MyCare

Policy

CareSource will reimburse its providers as outlined in this policy for their administration and management of medication-assisted therapies aimed at helping CareSource members withdraw completely from dependencies on short and long acting opioids.

Definitions

“Current Procedural Terminology” (“CPT”) codes are numbers assigned to every task, medical procedure, and service a medical practitioner may provide to a patient. CPT codes are developed, maintained/updated annually, and copyrighted by the American Medical Association. *(From ama-assn.org)*

“Healthcare Common Procedure Coding System” (“HCPCS”) is a set of health care procedure codes based on the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT). HCPCS currently includes two levels of codes: Level I consists of the American Medical Association's Current Procedural Terminology (CPT) and is numeric. Level II codes are alphanumeric and primarily include non-physician services such as ambulance services and prosthetic devices, and represent items and supplies and non-physician services, not covered by CPT-4 codes (Level I). *(from www.wikipedia.org)*

Provider Reimbursement Guidelines

Prior Authorization

CareSource will manage the use of Buprenorphine – Naloxone (Suboxone) / Buprenorphine (Subutex) and Zubsolv by its members through a prior authorization program that assures appropriate indication for and utilization of the drug(s). Buprenorphine – Naloxone (Suboxone) / Buprenorphine (Subutex) and Zubsolv treatment should be accompanied by ongoing counseling and psychosocial programs, combined with periodic urine screening to assure compliance with management protocols.

Coverage

Buprenorphine – Naloxone (Suboxone) / Buprenorphine (Subutex) and Zubsolv are CIII controlled medications used to treat opioid dependency and addiction. Clinical studies have demonstrated success in withdrawing patients completely from short and long acting opioids. It has also been demonstrated that Buprenorphine – Naloxone (Suboxone) is commonly abused by combined usage with opioids and other commonly abused drugs, and by diversion to unintended users and for unintended purposes.

The recommended clinical guidelines for the use of Buprenorphine in the treatment of opioid addiction suggest that physicians must periodically and regularly screen all patients for substance use and substance related problems. Complete assessment may require several office visits, but initial treatment should not be delayed during this period. Further recommendations include initial and ongoing drug screening to detect or confirm the recent use of drugs (e.g., alcohol, benzodiazepines, barbiturates), which could complicate the management of the member's health. Urine screening is the most commonly used and generally most cost-effective testing method. Please refer to the CareSource Provider Payment Policy, "Drug Screening," for more information.

Documentation & Requirements

CareSource providers who prescribe Buprenorphine – Naloxone (Suboxone) / Buprenorphine (Subutex) to CareSource members, must follow these guidelines:

- The provider will monitor the state's reporting system for members being treated (e.g. Ohio – OARRS).
- Members will be seen by the provider monthly at a minimum for the first 3 months, and no less frequently than every 2 months thereafter.
- All members receiving Buprenorphine – Naloxone (Suboxone)/ Buprenorphine (Subutex) should be actively engaged in therapeutic counseling either by treating physician or by an appropriately skilled consultant.
- Urine drug screening should be obtained as indicated using qualitative urine screening only, or other tests only if specifically indicated.
- Buprenorphine – Naloxone (Suboxone)/Buprenorphine (Subutex) management is a Medicaid-covered service, and claims should be submitted to CareSource with the standard office E & M CPT codes, pharmacologic management, or individual psychotherapy with E & M.
- Claims for associated counseling should be submitted using standard individual management counseling codes, depending on time spent with the member.
- If individual counseling codes are submitted in a claim, CareSource will not reimburse for the E & M CPT code(s) or pharmacologic management code.
- If counseling is referred outside the office, only E & M or pharmacologic management CPT codes should be submitted to CareSource as part of the claim.

Because Buprenorphine – Naloxone (Suboxone)/Buprenorphine (Subutex) management is a covered service for CareSource members, the provider may not bill, or balance bill the member for provided services and may not request a signed waiver committing the member to payment arrangements other than the standard reimbursement provided by CareSource as outlined above.

The combination medication Buprenorphine/Naloxone (Suboxone)/Buprenorphine (Subutex) is the only medication approved for use under these guidelines. No "off-label" or experimental use of buprenorphine/naloxone is permitted, nor will it be reimbursed under this policy. Additionally, Buprenorphine/Naloxone (Suboxone)/ Buprenorphine (Subutex) must be used as an adjunctive treatment within an individualized treatment plan for opioid addiction. It is not appropriate as a stand-alone treatment procedure.

Related Policies & References

CareSource Provider Payment Policy: Drug Screening

Ohio Administrative Code 5160-30-02, "Coverage and limitation policies for alcohol and other drug treatment services."

Ohio Administrative Code 5160-30-03, "Billable services."

Ohio Administrative Code 5160-30-04, "Reimbursement for community Medicaid alcohol and other drug treatment services."

Ohio Administrative Code 3793: 2-1-08 "Alcohol and drug addiction programs/Treatment programs."

State Exceptions

NONE

Document Revision History
