Clinical Policy: Buprenorphine (Subutex)

Reference Number: OH.PHAR.PPA.18
Effective Date: 01.01.19
Last Review Date: 12.18
Line of Business: Medicaid

Revision Log

See Important Reminder at the end of this policy for important regulatory and legal information.

Description

Buprenorphine (Subutex®) is a partial agonist at the mu-opioid receptor and an antagonist at the kappa-opioid receptor.

FDA Approved Indication(s)

Subutex is indicated for the treatment of opioid dependence and is preferred for induction.

Policy/Criteria

Short acting buprenorphine products are covered without prior authorization as long as the dose does not exceed 16 mg per day after the initial 90 days of fill. Prior authorization will be required for those doses exceeding 16 mg per day after the initial 90 day period.

A "soft stop" edit will be placed on buprenorphine (Subutex) that can be overridden by the Pharmacist at the local pharmacy if the member is pregnant.

Provider must submit documentation (including such as office chart notes, lab results or other clinical information) supporting that member has met all approval criteria.

It is the policy of health plans affiliated with Centene Corporation® that Subutex is **medically necessary** when the following criteria are met:

I. Initial Approval Criteria

A. Opioid Dependence (must meet all)**:**

1. Diagnosis of opioid dependence;
2. Age ≥ 16 years;
3. Member meets one of the following conditions (a, b, or c):
   a. Member is pregnant;
   b. Member has experienced clinically significant adverse effects or contraindication(s) to buprenorphine/naloxone (e.g., Suboxone);
   c. Request is for induction therapy (treatment duration of ≤ 5 days);
4. Dose does not exceed 16 mg per day
5. If request is for dose exceeding 16 mg per day, all of the following must be met (a, b, c, and d):
   a. Dose does not exceed 24 mg per day
   b. Prescriber has X DEA number
   c. Prescriber submits documentation with rationale for dose increase
   d. Prescriber submits a taper plan

Approval duration:
Induction therapy: 5 days
Maintenance therapy: Duration of request or 12 months (whichever is less)

B. Other diagnoses/indications
1. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

II. Continued Therapy

A. Opioid Dependence (must meet all)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit or member has previously met initial approval criteria;
   ***Note: Subutex will not be renewed for pregnancy unless there is documentation supporting that member is pregnant again*
2. Member is responding positively to therapy;
3. One of the following conditions is met (a or b):
   a. Member has NOT received an opioid analgesic since last approval;
   b. Prescriber submits documentation acknowledging that the use of opioid during the last approval period was due to legitimate diagnosis of pain;
4. If request is for a dose increase, new dose does not exceed 16mg/day
5. If request is for dose exceeding 16 mg per day, all of the following must be met (a, b, c, and d):
   a. Dose does not exceed 24 mg per day
   b. Member is seen by an addictionologist (i.e. provider has X DEA number)
   c. Prescriber submits documentation with rationale for dose increase
   d. Prescriber submits a taper plan

Approval duration: Duration of request or 12 months (whichever is less)

B. Other diagnoses/indications (must meet 1 or 2)**:**
1. Currently receiving medication via Centene benefit and documentation supports positive response to therapy.
   Approval duration: Duration of request or 12 months (whichever is less); or
2. Refer to the off-label use policy if diagnosis is NOT specifically listed under section III (Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized): CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid.

III. Diagnoses/Indications for which coverage is NOT authorized:

A. Non-FDA approved indications, which are not addressed in this policy, unless there is sufficient documentation of efficacy and safety according to the off label use policy – CP.PMN.53 for Medicaid or evidence of coverage documents;
B. Pain management.

IV. Appendices/General Information

Appendix A: Abbreviation/Acronym Key
FDA: Food and Drug Administration

Appendix B: Therapeutic Alternatives
Not applicable

V. Dosage and Administration

Indication	Dosing Regimen	Maximum Dose
Opioid dependence	Induction Adults: 8 mg sublingually (SL) on Day 1 and 16 mg SL on Day 2; then the patient should start maintenance treatment.	24 mg/day
	Maintenance The maintenance dose is generally in the range of 4 mg to 24 mg buprenorphine per day depending on the individual patient. Doses higher than this have not been demonstrated to provide any clinical advantage. The dosage of buprenorphine should be progressively adjusted in increments/decrements of 2 mg or 4 mg buprenorphine to a level that holds the patient in treatment and suppresses opioid withdrawal signs and symptoms.	

VI. Product Availability

Sublingual tablet: 2 mg, 8 mg

VII. References

1. Buprenorphine Prescribing Information. Elizabeth, NJ: Actavis Elizabeth LLC; November 2016. Available at: https://dailymed.nlm.nih.gov/dailymed/. Accessed November 9, 2017.
2. Center for Substance Abuse Treatment. Clinical Guidelines for the Use of Buprenorphine in the Treatment of Opioid Addiction. Rockville (MD): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US); 2004. (Treatment Improvement Protocol (TIP) Series, No. 40.) Available from: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/books/NBK64245/. Accessed November 9, 2017.

Reviews, Revisions, and Approvals	Date	P&T Approval Date
Policy created.	12.18	01.19

Important Reminder

This clinical policy has been developed by appropriately experienced and licensed health care professionals based on a review and consideration of currently available generally accepted standards of medical practice; peer-reviewed medical literature; government agency/program approval status; evidence-based guidelines and positions of leading national health professional organizations; views of physicians practicing in relevant clinical areas affected by this clinical policy; and other available clinical information. The Health Plan makes no representations and

accepts no liability with respect to the content of any external information used or relied upon in developing this clinical policy. This clinical policy is consistent with standards of medical practice current at the time that this clinical policy was approved. "Health Plan" means a health plan that has adopted this clinical policy and that is operated or administered, in whole or in part, by Centene Management Company, LLC, or any of such health plan's affiliates, as applicable.

The purpose of this clinical policy is to provide a guide to medical necessity, which is a component of the guidelines used to assist in making coverage decisions and administering benefits. It does not constitute a contract or guarantee regarding payment or results. Coverage decisions and the administration of benefits are subject to all terms, conditions, exclusions and limitations of the coverage documents (e.g., evidence of coverage, certificate of coverage, policy, contract of insurance, etc.), as well as to state and federal requirements and applicable Health Plan-level administrative policies and procedures.

This clinical policy is effective as of the date determined by the Health Plan. The date of posting may not be the effective date of this clinical policy. This clinical policy may be subject to applicable legal and regulatory requirements relating to provider notification. If there is a discrepancy between the effective date of this clinical policy and any applicable legal or regulatory requirement, the requirements of law and regulation shall govern. The Health Plan retains the right to change, amend or withdraw this clinical policy, and additional clinical policies may be developed and adopted as needed, at any time.

This clinical policy does not constitute medical advice, medical treatment or medical care. It is not intended to dictate to providers how to practice medicine. Providers are expected to exercise professional medical judgment in providing the most appropriate care, and are solely responsible for the medical advice and treatment of members. This clinical policy is not intended to recommend treatment for members. Members should consult with their treating physician in connection with diagnosis and treatment decisions.

Providers referred to in this clinical policy are independent contractors who exercise independent judgment and over whom the Health Plan has no control or right of control. Providers are not agents or employees of the Health Plan.

 Providers, members and their representatives are bound to the terms and conditions expressed herein through the terms of their contracts. Where no such contract exists, providers, members and their representatives agree to be bound by such terms and conditions by providing services to members and/or submitting claims for payment for such services.

Note:
For Medicaid members, when state Medicaid coverage provisions conflict with the coverage provisions in this clinical policy, state Medicaid coverage provisions take precedence. Please refer to the state Medicaid manual for any coverage provisions pertaining to this clinical policy.