

General Suboxone®/Buprenorphine Information

1. Providers are reminded; Suboxone® when prescribed for opiate dependency (its only FDA approved indication) is designed to be dosed once daily. Daily doses should be made up of the fewest number of dosage units (now easier with 4 different film strengths).
2. Films should never be divided as the child protection is then lost from the remainder of the dose.
3. Daily Suboxone® dosing is ideal; however, in some situations a patient's physician will authorize that a patient receive multiple day dosing, up to three days, to cover multiple days of treatment due to the length of time the substance remains in the system. A patient on a daily 16 mg dose may receive 32 mg if dosing is occurring every other day. The average dose during the month cannot exceed 16 mg/day without prior authorization.

Medicaid Billing – Rules for J3490/Suboxone®/Buprenorphine in Hubs

Medicaid billing follows the protocol developed by the Division of Vermont Health Access (DVHA). Please note any DVHA issued document outlining Medicaid billing protocols after the date of this document will supersede these instructions.

1. Billing providers are limited to those on this list:
 - Start date of service 01/01/2013 - Howard Center NPI 1134346687
 - Start date of service 03/01/2013 - Howard Center NPI 1093005092
 - Start date of service 03/01/2013 - BAART (NEK) Location NPI 1902944002/Taxonomy 261QM2800X
 - Start date of service 07/01/2013 - BAART Central Vermont Location NPI 1225115439
 - Start date of service 07/01/2013 - HABIT OPCO (West Lebanon) NPI 1023175072
 - Start date of service 07/01/2013 - HABIT OPCO (Brattleboro) NPI 1912155516
 - Start date of service 10/01/2013 - Rutland Regional Medical center NPI 1467416206/Taxonomy 261QM2800X
2. "Suboxone" or "Buprenorphine" must be written in field 19 of the CMS-1500 claim form or in the electronic claim notes field.
3. One of the diagnosis codes for the J3490 detail must be 304.00 – 304.03.
4. Use HCPCS code J3490 - UNCLASSIFIED DRUGS. Do not use a modifier with this code as that will cause the claim to deny.
5. From the Provider Manual:

When entering an NDC on your claim form, please enter the following data elements in the following order: NDC, measurement qualifier code and unit quantity. Do not insert brackets, spaces or dashes. Claims formatted incorrectly will be denied.

 - **FL 24D:** HCPCS code
 - **FL 24D Shaded area:** 11 digit NDC number, Unit of Measurement Qualifier, and Unit Quantity

- **FL 24G:** HCPCS unit

COVERED NDCs	NDC DESCRIPTION	PRICE/UNIT
12496-1202-01	SUBOXONE 2 MG-0.5 MG SL FILM	\$4.05
12496-1202-03	SUBOXONE 2 MG-0.5 MG SL FILM	\$4.04
12496-1204-03	SUBOXONE 4 MG-1 MG SL FILM	\$7.25
12496-1208-01	SUBOXONE 8 MG-2 MG SL FILM	\$7.25
12496-1208-03	SUBOXONE 8 MG-2 MG SL FILM	\$7.25
12496-1212-03	SUBOXONE 12 MG-3 MG SL FILM	\$14.49
50383-0924-93	BUPRENORPHINE HCL 2 MG	\$3.47
00054-0176-13	BUPRENORPHINE HCL 2 MG	\$3.47
00093-5378-56	BUPRENORPHINE HCL 2 MG	\$3.47
50383-0930-93	BUPRENORPHINE HCL 8 MG	\$4.31
00054-0177-13	BUPRENORPHINE HCL 8 MG	\$4.31
00093-5379-56	BUPRENORPHINE HCL 8 MG	\$4.31

- One unit = one film packet.
- FL 24D Shaded area:**
11 digit NDC number, for this program refer to chart of covered NDCs.
Unit of Measurement Qualifier, for this program it will be “UN”.
Unit Quantity, for this program it will be the number of film packets.
- Suboxone® and Buprenorphine will be priced based on the NDC, see #6.
- Please bill per calendar month. “From” date should be either the first date of treatment or the first of the month. “To” date should be either the last date of treatment or the last day of the month. Providers should only bill the days the beneficiary is eligible.
- Suboxone® is limited to an average of 16mg/day, without a Prior Authorization. If a patient requires an average of more than 16mg/day, a Prior Authorization is required. Buprenorphine (Mono) will always require prior authorization. **Retro Prior Authorizations will not be granted effective Date of Service 5/1/2013.** Requests should be directed to the Substance Abuse Unit (Bill at 802-871-3092 or Todd at 802-871-3091) during normal business hours.
- Providers must verify the patient's eligibility and other insurance information using the patient's Medicaid UID number by accessing either of the automated eligibility verification systems. The **Green Mountain Care Eligibility Verification System (EVS)** provides beneficiary information to participating health care providers.
 - Voice Response System (VRS), 802-878-7871, option 1; or
 - Transaction Services at <http://www.vtmedicaid.com/Interactive/login2.html>.

If for any reason you are unable to use either method, you may call the HPES Provider Services Help Desk at (800) 925-1706 or (802) 878-7871. For additional information please see the provider manual on our website www.vtmedicaid.com, select downloads and then select manuals.

Suboxone® for Uninsured Clients

There is very limited funding for Suboxone® for uninsured patients. Because of the high cost of the drug, it is unlikely that most individuals can afford to continue Suboxone® treatment when transferred to a spoke. At present, Medicare will not pay for Suboxone® provided in a hub but may pay for it when prescribed in a spoke so Medicare clients are the most appropriate use of available funds.

Providers must have a mechanism in place to assist clients in accessing insurance coverage through the Exchange to minimize the portion of uninsured clients in the hubs.

Only those providers able to bill Medicaid for Suboxone® using the J3490 code are eligible to receive funding for Suboxone® for uninsured individuals. Providers are limited to the Medicaid covered NDC codes and doses. The price per unit for Suboxone® for uninsured is the same as the Medicaid rate.

The total grant amount for Suboxone® is included in the hub grants. In order to support the use of the funding, a report of the actual cost of Suboxone® provided to uninsured patients is to be submitted quarterly. The form is available on the ADAP website:

<http://healthvermont.gov/adap/grantees/documents/UninsuredBuprenorphineClientReport.xls>

Please note that because the form includes private health information, it must be emailed using appropriate security or must be faxed or mailed.

Suboxone® for Self Pay Clients

There are individuals who may choose to self-pay for buprenorphine product dosing at the hub. This may be due to third payers not paying for the buprenorphine, because the client chooses not provide insurance information to the hub, or the client chooses not to access insurance through the exchange. Providers must have a process in place to accept payment. Patients must be charged no more than the actual cost of the medication.