

September 2020

Reimbursement of Opioid Use Disorder Treatment in Opioid Treatment Programs

Background: Effective January 20, 2020, Healthy Blue will cover methadone as an authorized medication for opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment provided in opioid treatment programs (OTPs or methadone clinics). Members admitted to an OTP for treatment must be at least 18 years old, unless the member has consent from a parent or legal guardian, if applicable, and has been addicted to opiates for at least one year or meets federal exceptions, as determined by a physician. Reimbursement for methadone for OUD treatment will only be made to OTPs. OTPs must adhere to all policies, rules and regulations set forth by the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH), Office of Behavioral Health, State Opioid Treatment Authority. Services shall be provided in accordance with the standards set forth by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), Health Standards Licensing, the US Department of Justice Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy, and all applicable SAMHSA-approved accrediting bodies as accepted by LDH. A provider subspecialty code 8V has been established for the OTPs/methadone clinics as sole source providers.

Provider subspecialty code	Provider subspecialty description	Associated provider type/specialty
8V	Methadone clinic	PT 68/PS 70

The 8V subspecialty has two bundled rate options. H0020 will be used for a bundled rate reimbursement for methadone treatment. H0047 will be used for a bundled rate for buprenorphine treatment but excludes the ingredient cost of the medication. Buprenorphine medication will be billed separately using the applicable J codes (J0571-J0575) depending on dosage amounts.

Bundled rates for the OTPs will facilitate the practical needs of patient-centered treatment in the administration of medication-assisted treatment (MAT) to integrate the provision of counseling and medical services. It strengthens recovery and decreases recidivism in patients diagnosed within the substance use disorder spectrum.

The table below provides an explanation of available codes for the OTPs/methadone clinics:

Code	<i>Explanation of Benefits</i>
H0020	<p>Methadone Bundled Rate Bundled rate includes all state and federal regulatory mandated components of treatment. Services include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medication: This includes the administration, dosing and dispensing of Methadone as per the patient’s treatment plan. • Counseling: Patients are required to participate in group or individual sessions as part of the patient’s treatment plan. • Urine Drug Testing: This includes the urine drug testing or other laboratory tests deemed medically necessary. • Physical examinations by a physician or advanced practice registered nurse. • Evaluation and management visits. • Case management. • Laboratory services.

<https://providers.healthybluelouisiana.com>

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Code	<i>Explanation of Benefits</i>
	<p>The OTP may be reimbursed for the bundled rate for participants receiving take-home doses in accordance with state and federal regulations and the patient’s treatment plan phase.</p> <p>Guest dosing occurs when a patient receives Methadone dosing at another OTP other than their primary/home-based OTP clinic. The guest dosing provider will bill for the bundled rate and provide clinical care, if appropriate, that is coordinated with the “home” provider and Methadone Central Registry (MCR) to ensure correct dosing.</p>
H0047	<p>Buprenorphine Bundled Rate Bundled rate includes all components of treatment, except for the Buprenorphine medication. Services include but are not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assessment and individualized plan of care • Individual and group counseling • Urine Drug Testing or laboratory testing • Coordination of medically necessary services <p>Buprenorphine medication will be billed separately using the applicable J codes (J0571-J0575) depending on dosage amounts.</p>

The *Specialized Behavioral Health Fee Schedule* will be updated on the Louisiana Medicaid website at <https://www.lamedicaid.com> to reflect these changes.

Prior Authorization Requirements

Prior authorization will not be required for codes H0020 and H0047. Reimbursement for these codes for OUD treatment will only be made to OTPs, which are federally approved by SAMHSA and the DEA, and regulated by LDH, which includes Office of Behavioral Health and The Health Standards Section.

Medical Policies and Clinical Utilization Management Guidelines:

- H0020: Qualified providers are expected to adhere to Federal and State guidelines.
- H0047: Providers are expected to follow LDH’s *Preferred Drug List* for Buprenorphine found here:
<http://www.ldh.la.gov/assets/HealthyLa/PDL/10.2019/29.51eOpiateDependenceAgents102419.pdf>.

Any methadone clinic and/or provider operating, functioning, and/or employing the above-referenced Louisiana Medicaid Program Guideline in the delivery of these opioid treatment services shall do so in conformity with both federal and state laws and regulations pertaining to the delivery of these services, including but not limited to *Federal Guidelines For Opioid Treatment Programs, 2015*.
<https://store.samhsa.gov/system/files/pep15-fedguideotp.pdf>)*

* Healthy Blue shall incorporate the above language in any Provider Contract with a health care provider who intends to deliver opioid treatment services.

What if I need assistance?

If you have questions about this communication, including questions related to contracting with Healthy Blue to provide services to our members, please call our Provider Relations Hotline at **1-504-836-8888**. If you need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at **1-844-521-6942**.