

Subject: Buprenorphine/Naloxone (Suboxone) and Buprenorphine (Subutex)

Objective:

- I. To provide providers with standardized criteria under which Buprenorphine/Naloxone (Suboxone) and Buprenorphine (Subutex) is considered appropriate.
- II. To ensure THA members have access to the appropriate medications that treat their condition(s) as well as meeting standard guidelines.
- III. To ensure that THA's Case Management process is utilized when determining approval for use of Suboxone and Subutex.

Definition:

Suboxone is a prescription combination medicine that contains buprenorphine and Narcan (naloxone). Suboxone is a prescription medicine used to treat adults who are addicted/dependent on prescription or illegal opioid drugs in conjunction with a complete treatment program including behavioral therapy/counseling. It is used to treat narcotic (opioid) dependence/addiction.

Buprenorphine belongs to a class of drugs called mixed narcotic agonist-antagonists. Buprenorphine helps prevent withdrawal symptoms caused by stopping other opiate-type narcotics. Naloxone is an opioid antagonist used to counter the effects of unintentional opioid overdose.

Subutex is buprenorphine alone. Buprenorphine helps prevent withdrawal symptoms caused by stopping opiate-type narcotics.

Policy:

- I. Members should have a diagnosis of opioid dependence as defined in the Diagnostic and Statistical manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition (DSM-5) titled "Criteria for Opioid Use Disorder" and further referenced in the DSM-5 titled "Substance-Related and Addictive Disorders".
- II. Members should at least 16 years of age.
- III. Members should not have a comorbid dependence on benzodiazepines or alcohol.
- IV. Prescriber must be authorized by Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) to prescribe buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine.

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- V. Provider must confirm members are not obtaining opiates from another prescriber through verification with the Oregon Prescription Drug Monitoring Program.
- VI. Prior-authorization from THA Nurse Case Managers is required for all prescriptions.
- VII. Prior-authorization approval for buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine require medical documentation demonstrating the member has been referred to Washington County Department of Health and Human Services Mental Health Crisis Line (503-291-9111) or by visiting the Hawthorne Walk-in Center for substance abuse treatment.
- VIII. THA Medical Management may approve a buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine prescription for up to three (3) months.
- IX. Prior-authorization approval for buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine refills require medical documentation of negative toxicology screens for every three months of treatment.

References: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Centers for Substance Abuse Treatment
American Psychiatric Association Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders, Fifth Edition, (DSM-5)

Formulated:	June 2014
Reviewed:	June 2016
Revised	March 2018