

Medical Coverage Policies

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Methadone Treatment Programs

EFFECTIVE DATE	01/15/2008	LAST UPDATED	01/15/2008
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Description:

This is a reimbursement policy to document the coverage information for Methadone Treatment Programs. Please refer to the individual member's subscriber agreement for benefit/coverage information.

Methadone hydrochloride is a synthetic narcotic analgesic with multiple actions quantitatively similar to those of morphine. Its principal use is detoxification or maintenance in opiate addiction (heroin or other morphine-like drugs).¹

Methadone treatment programs are generally a covered benefit for BlueCHiP for Rlte Care members only. Methadone treatment clinics offer methadone programs that include the distribution of methadone and all counseling services that are required by the member. Counseling is mandatory every 30 days, but a member may receive additional counseling services as needed.

Medical Criteria:

None, this is a reimbursement policy.

Policy:

When methadone treatment programs are covered services,(in the case of BlueCHiP for Rlte Care), the global payment made by BCBSRI for methadone treatment programs includes **ALL** counseling services. No payment is made for additional counseling services as they are included in the global program rate. The global payment made by BCBSRI for methadone treatment programs also includes all necessary laboratory claims submitted for the member participating in the methadone treatment program when filed by the methadone treatment program.

Please refer to the individual member's subscriber agreement for benefit and coverage information.

Coverage:

Benefits may vary between groups/contracts. Please refer to the appropriate member certificate/subscriber agreement/Rlte Care contract for applicable methadone treatment coverage/benefits.

Additional Information for BCBSRI Commercial and BlueCHiP for Medicare members:

Methadone detoxification/maintenance programs/clinics are "non-covered" benefits for all BCBSRI Commercial and BlueCHiP for Medicare members.

Providers who are licensed as methadone treatment clinics **and** general outpatient substance abuse services providers can provide and bill for the **non-methadone therapy/counseling services** performed for all BCBSRI Commercial members as long as the following requirements are met:

- The member is **not active** in the providers' methadone program.
- The services are provided by an individual who is a contracted and credentialed provider with BCBSRI or a licensed chemical dependency professional (LCDP) who works under the facility's license. These services draw down from the member's outpatient substance abuse counseling benefit.

Coding:

H0020 Alcohol and/or drug services; methadone administration and/or service (provision of the drug by a licensed program)

Related Topics:

Behavioral Health Services
Substance Abuse and Dependency Mandate

References:

¹ From BCBSA: Methadone Treatment for Opiate Addiction. 3.02.01. Retrieved on 01/03/08 from:http://blueweb.bcbs.com/global_assets/special_content/medical_policy/policymanual/policy.html?pnnum=30201

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This medical policy is made available to you for informational purposes only. It is not a guarantee of payment or a substitute for your medical judgement in the treatment of your patients. Benefits and eligibility are determined by the member's subscriber agreement or member certificate and/or the employer agreement, and those documents will supersede the provisions of this medical policy. For information on member-specific benefits, call the provider call center . If you provide services to a member which are determined to not be medically necessary (or in some cases medically necessary services which are non-covered benefits), you may not charge the member for the services unless you have informed the member and they have agreed in writing in advance to continue with the treatment at their own expense. Please refer to your participation agreement(s) for the applicable provisions.

This policy is current at the time of publication; however, medical practices, technology, and knowledge are constantly changing. BCBSRI reserves the right to review and revise this policy for any reason and at any time, with or without notice.

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