

Date: February 27, 2020

Requestor's Name: Dr. XXX (Professor of Health Policy and Administration, University X)

Request Classification: General Product Information

Verbatim Request: What drugs are associated with treating opioid abuse / opioid dependence?

Interpreted / Detailed Request: What drugs are likely to be encountered when analyzing administrative claims for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)?

Response to Question: There are several drugs (both alone and in combination with other agents) that may be encountered when analyzing claims for patients who were treated for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). Please refer to the **Table**. Some of these drugs are used in an overdose situation (opioid reversal agent), others are abuse-deterrent formulations that are prescribed to patients receiving treatment for opioid use disorder, and others are used in opioid detoxification to manage withdrawal symptoms. Please refer to the “Uses” and “Notes” column of the **Table**.

Table. Drugs associated with treatment of opioid use disorder (OUD) in the United States.

Agent (Generic Name)	Brand Name	Dosage Form	Mechanism	Uses	Notes
Naloxone	Narcan® Evzio® Generic	Narcan® → nasal liquid Evzio® → injection solution (auto-injector) Generic → injection solution, injection solution (auto-injector), injection solution cartridge, pre-filled syringe injection solution	Opioid reversal agent / antidote / pure opioid antagonist	Rapid / immediate opioid reversal in life-threatening situations (used by first-responders and in the ED) To make abuse-deterrent formulations of various opioids (oxycodone [Targiniq ER®]; pentazocine [generic]; and buprenorphine [see brand names below]).	Must be inhaled or injected for opioid reversal Not active orally Used in abuse-deterrent formulations of orally-administered opioids encourages the patient to take the opioid as intended and discourages the patient from crushing up and snorting / injecting the opioid for a more intense high. If they do the latter, then naloxone will exert its effects and they will experience opioid reversal.

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Agent (Generic Name)	Brand Name	Dosage Form	Mechanism	Uses	Notes
Naltrexone	Vivitrol® Generic International (Canada): ReVia®	Vivitrol® → IM suspension (injected) Generic → oral tablet ReVia® → oral tablet	Opioid antagonist; may possess some agonist properties, but these are minor compared to its potent antagonistic properties	Opioid use disorder Alcohol use disorder	Active orally and intravenously Blocks effects of exogenously (illicitly) administered opioids; discourages the patient from injection or using opioids while they are trying to recover from their dependence Abuse-deterrent formulations of controlled-release morphine using naltrexone were once available, but I think have been discontinued (Embeda® extended release capsule); the naltrexone pellets were encapsulated inside the ER capsule but released when the contents of the capsule were crushed, dissolved or chewed up in stead of being swallowed whole (when a person would try to circumvent the extended release mechanism and get the full extended release dose of morphine all at once (a dose dump))

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Agent (Generic Name)	Brand Name	Dosage Form	Mechanism	Uses	Notes
Buprenorphine	Belbuca® Probuphine® Butrans® Buprenex® Sublocade® Generic International (Canada): Subutex®	Belbuca® → buccal film Probuphine® → subdermal implant (q6 months)* Butrans® → transdermal patch (q7 days) Buprenex® → injection solution Sublocade® → subcutaneous injection (q monthly)* Generic → injection solution Generic → sublingual tablet*	Has a mixed agonist-antagonist opioid receptor mechanism of action, so it has lower abuse potential than other agents like morphine Unlike other opioids, has an analgesic effect ceiling	Opioid use disorder (*) Management of symptoms of opioid withdrawal in heroin-dependent hospitalized patients Pain	C-III (DEA controlled substance category 3)
Buprenorphine + Naloxone	Bunavail® Suboxone® Zubsolv® Cassipa® → discontinued? Or might just be unavailable right now Generic	Bunavail® → buccal film Suboxone® → sublingual FILM Zubsolv® → sublingual TABLET Casspia® → sublingual FILM Generic → sublingual FILM Generic → sublingual TABLET	(see individual agents)	Opioid use disorder	C-III
Methadone	(let me know if you need a list here)	(let me know if you need a list here)	Opioid	Opioid use disorder Pain	C-II *Didn't appear in your list, but you may encounter in folks who are being managed for opioid use disorder because it is used in detoxification of opioid addiction (heroin or other)

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Agent (Generic Name)	Brand Name	Dosage Form	Mechanism	Uses	Notes
					morphine-like drugs) to manage opioid withdrawal symptoms

IM, intramuscular (injected)