

Clinical program requirements

For behavioral health opioid treatment programs

For Blue Cross commercial, Medicare Plus BlueSM,
Blue Care Network commercial and BCN AdvantageSM

Revised November 2025

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Description of an opioid treatment program

An opioid treatment program is a program or practitioner that provides medication-assisted treatment for individuals with an opioid use disorder.

The goal of an opioid treatment program is to alleviate the adverse medical, psychological or physical effects of opioid addiction.

The treatment of opioid use disorders with medications is governed by the [Certification of Opioid Treatment Programs, 42 Code of Federal Regulations 8](#).^{*} This regulation created a system to accredit and certify opioid treatment programs.

Services

Medications

Opioid treatment programs provide medications approved by the U.S. Food & Drug Administration, or FDA, to treat members with opioid use disorders. These include buprenorphine, methadone and naltrexone.

Other services

Opioid treatment programs also provide medical and rehabilitative services, counseling and therapy.

Accreditation

Opioid treatment programs must be certified by Division of Pharmacologic Therapies of the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, or SAMHSA, and accredited by an independent, SAMHSA-approved accrediting body.

SAMHSA is responsible for overseeing the certification of opioid treatment programs.

For more information, refer to the [Opioid Treatment Program Information for Providers*](#) page of the SAMHSA website.

Reimbursement

Only providers who are certified through SAMHSA to provide opioid treatment services are eligible to receive bundled reimbursement from Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network.

For more information about reimbursement, refer to:

- The Substance Use Disorder Treatment Services chapter of the *Blue Cross Commercial Provider Manual*
- The Claims chapter of the *BCN Provider Manual*

To access these documents:

1. Log in to our provider portal ([availity.com](#)*).
2. On the Payer Spaces menu, click the BCBSM and BCN logo.
3. On the Resources tab, click *Secure Provider Resources (Blue Cross and BCN)*.
4. Click *Provider Manuals*, then click the link for the desired manual.
5. Click the link for the chapter.

Information about other types of behavioral health treatment

Information about the clinical program requirements for other types of treatment can be found in these documents:

- [Adult intensive and child intensive services](#)
- [Urgent care and crisis services](#)
- [Partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs](#)
- [Feeding and eating disorder partial hospitalization and intensive outpatient programs](#)
- [Residential psychiatric treatment services](#)
- [Residential treatment for substance use disorders](#)

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Use this document to access links to all requirements documents: [Various behavioral health programs and services](#).

Additional behavioral health resources

For more behavioral health resources, refer to the [Behavioral Health](#) page on authorizations.bcbsm.com.

*Clicking this link means that you're leaving the Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network website. While we recommend this site, we're not responsible for its content.

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