



Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Services

Medicare **Part B** (Medical Insurance) covers opioid use disorder treatment services in opioid treatment programs.

Services covered

- Medication (like methadone and buprenorphine)
- Counseling*
- Drug testing
- Individual and group therapy*

*Medicare covers counseling and therapy services in person and by virtual delivery (using 2-way audio/video communication technology, like a computer)

Original Medicare costs

You pay nothing for these services if you get them from an opioid treatment program that's enrolled in Medicare, and the **Part B** deductible applies. Medicare pays doctors and other providers for office-based opioid use disorder treatment, including management, care coordination, psychotherapy and counseling activities.

Medicare Drug coverage (Part D)

Helps pay for opioid pain medication: Prescription opioids, like hydrocodone (Vicodin®), oxycodone (OxyContin®), morphine, codeine, and fentanyl can be used to help relieve severe pain. Some Medicare plans have certain coverage rules to help you use opioids safely.

Opioid pain medication safety checks

When you fill a prescription at the pharmacy, Medicare drug plans and pharmacists routinely check to make sure the prescription is correct, that there are no interactions, and that the medication is appropriate for you. They also conduct safety reviews to monitor the safe use of opioids and other frequently abused medications. These reviews are especially important if you have more than one doctor who prescribes these drugs. In some cases, the Medicare drug plan or pharmacist may need to first talk to your doctor before the prescription can be filled.

Opioid pain medication safety checks (continued)

Your drug plan or pharmacist may do a safety review when you fill a prescription if you:

- Take potentially unsafe opioid amounts as determined by the drug plan or pharmacist.
- Take opioids with benzodiazepines like Xanax®, Valium®, and Klonopin®.
- Are newly using opioids—you may be limited to an initial 7-day supply or less, to decrease the likelihood of addiction or long-term use.

If your pharmacy can't fill your prescription as written, the pharmacist will give you a notice explaining how you or your doctor can call or write to your plan to ask for a coverage decision. If your health requires it, you can ask the plan for a fast coverage decision. You may also ask your plan for an exception to its rules before you go to the pharmacy, so you'll know if your plan will cover the medication.

Ask for an exception if:

- You disagree with your plan's "at-risk determination" under a drug management program that limits your access to coverage for frequently abused drugs

For certain drugs, Medicare drug plans might perform additional safety checks, and will send your pharmacy an alert for review before your prescription is filled. Safety alerts may cover situations like:

- Possible unsafe amounts of opioids. Your pharmacist or Medicare drug plan may need to review your prescription with your doctor to make sure the medications are safe.
- First prescription fills for opioids. You may be limited to a 7-day supply or less if you haven't recently taken opioids.
- Use of opioids and benzodiazepines at the same time.

If your prescription can't be filled as written, including the full amount on the prescription, the pharmacist will give you a notice explaining how you or your doctor can contact the plan to ask for a coverage determination.

Drug management programs

Some Medicare drug plans have a drug management program in place to help you use these opioids and benzodiazepines safely. If you get opioids from multiple doctors or pharmacies, your plan will contact the doctors who prescribed the drugs to make sure they're medically necessary and that you're using them appropriately.

Drug management programs (continued)

If your Medicare drug plan decides your use of prescription opioids and benzodiazepines may not be safe, the plan will send you a letter in advance. This letter will tell you if the plan will limit coverage of these drugs for you, or if you'll be required to get the prescriptions for these drugs only from a doctor or pharmacy that you select.

Before your Medicare drug plan places you in its drug management program, it will notify you by letter, and you'll be able to tell the plan which doctors or pharmacies you prefer to use. You and your doctor can appeal if you disagree with your plan's decision or think the plan made a mistake.

Note

The opioid safety reviews at the pharmacy and the drug management programs generally don't apply to you if you have cancer, get palliative or end-of-life care, are in hospice, or if you reside in a long-term care facility.

Important tips if you're prescribed opioids

- Opioid medications can be an important part of pain management, but they also can have serious health risks if misused.
- Talk with your doctor about having naloxone at home. Naloxone is a drug Medicare covers that your doctor may prescribe as a safety measure to rapidly reverse the effects of an opioid overdose.
- Talk with your doctor about your dosage and the length of time you'll be taking them. You and your doctor may decide later you don't need to take all of your prescription.
- Talk with your doctor about [other options that Medicare covers to treat your pain](#), like non-opioid medications and devices, physical therapy, acupuncture for lower back pain**, individual and group therapy, behavioral health integration services, and more. There also may be other pain treatment options available that Medicare doesn't cover.

**Beginning 2021, Medicare covers up to 12 acupuncture visits in 90 days for chronic low back pain.

- Tell your doctor if you have a history of depression, substance abuse, childhood trauma or other health and/or personal issues that could make opioid use more dangerous for you.
- Never take more opioids than prescribed. Also, talk with your doctor about any other pain medicines you're taking.
- Safely store and dispose of unused prescription opioids through your community drug take-back program or your pharmacy mail-back program.



Opioid Treatment Program Services in Hawaii

- **CHAMP Clinic**

(CHAMP = Comprehensive Health and Attitude Management Program)

[Hawaii Opiate Addiction Treatment Center - CHAMP Clinic Honolulu Maui](#)

Oahu:

173 S Kukui St
Honolulu HI 96813
(808) 426-4515

Maui:

270 Waiehu Beach Rd, Ste 115
Wailuku HI 96793
(808) 249-8784

- **Ku Aloha Ola Mau, Inc**

www.kualoha.com

Oahu:

1130 N Nimitz Hwy, Ste C-302
Honolulu HI 96817
(808) 538-0704

Hawaii:

900 Leilani Street Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
Hilo HI 96793
(808) 961-6822

Hawaii CARES

Are you or a loved one experiencing a crisis, need access to substance use treatment, mental health or COVID-19 isolation and quarantine services?

For assistance, call the Hawai'i CARES (Coordinated Access Resource Entry System)

24/7 Hotline: Oahu: 808-832-3100
Toll free: 1-800-753-6879

For more information, visit the Hawaii CARES website: hicares.hawaii.gov

‘Ohana Coach Program

The ‘Ohana Coach Program is a group of trained volunteer coaches that provides support and resources for people who have experienced loved ones dealing with substance use issues. To talk to a Parent Coach, call 808-523-7550.

Hawaii SHIP (State Health Insurance Assistance Program)

Hawaii SHIP is a federally funded, volunteer-based program administered by the Hawaii Dept of Health, Executive Office on Aging. We provide free, unbiased counseling assistance to Medicare beneficiaries, their families, caregivers, and soon-to-be retirees. We also provide free, virtual presentations on Medicare-related topics.

Contact our Helpline or visit our website to request these free services:

808-586-7299

1-888-875-9229 (toll free)

www.hawaiiiship.org

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Source: [Opioid Use Disorder Treatment Coverage \(medicare.gov\)](#)