

ALASKA MEDICAID

**Suboxone® and Subutex® (Buprenorphine)**

Suboxone® Tablets and Films (Buprenorphine/Naloxone): 2mg/0.5mg and 8mg/2mg  
Subutex® Tablets (Buprenorphine): 2mg and 8mg

**PREFERRED MEDICATION:**

NA

**NON-PREFERRED MEDICATION:**

NA

**INDICATION:**

“SUBOXONE and SUBUTEX are indicated for the treatment of opioid dependence.”<sup>1</sup>

**CRITERIA FOR APPROVAL:**

The following criteria must be met for the approval of coverage of Suboxone®:

1. The patient is at least 16 years old; **AND**
2. The patient is being treated for opioid dependence and has agreed to adhere to a treatment plan; **AND**
3. The prescriber is authorized to practice medication assisted opioid addiction therapy and meets all qualifications (State and Federal) to prescribe Suboxone® or Subutex®, and has been issued a special identification number from the Drug Enforcement Administration<sup>2</sup>; **AND**
4. The patient is not receiving other narcotic analgesics, benzodiazepines, tranquilizers, or consuming alcohol while receiving Suboxone® or Subutex®; **AND**

**CRITERIA CAUSING DENIAL:**

1. The patient is 15 years old or younger; **OR**
2. The patient is being treated for anything other than opioid dependence; **OR**
3. The patient has not agreed to adhere to a treatment plan; **OR**
4. The prescriber does not meet all qualifications to prescribe Suboxone® or Subutex®; **OR**
5. The patient is receiving narcotic analgesics, benzodiazepines, tranquilizers, or is consuming alcohol regularly; **OR**

Suboxone® Criteria

Version 1

Last Updated: 3/19/2010

Approved: 3/19/2010

**LENGTH OF AUTHORIZATION:**

1. Coverage may be approved for up to six (6) months. After 6 months a new prior authorization must be obtained.

**DISPENSING LIMIT:**

1. The dispensing limit is a 30 day supply of medication.

**MAXIMUM DAILY DOSE:**

1. Total daily doses of 24mg or less ( $\leq$  24mg/day) of buprenorphine may be approved.
2. Total daily doses  $>$  24mg of buprenorphine will not be approved.

**REFERENCES / FOOTNOTES:**

<sup>1</sup> Suboxone® and Subutex® package insert, available at: <http://www.suboxone.com/hcp/pi/>> Accessed 03/02/2010.

<sup>2</sup>U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, Buprenorphine Physician Waiver Qualifications, available at [http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov./waiver\\_qualifications.html](http://buprenorphine.samhsa.gov./waiver_qualifications.html)> Accessed 03/02/2010.