

Effective treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD), including medication, is available to CBH members.¹ However, it is not always used. The 2022 National Survey on Drug Use and Health estimates that only one in four people needing substance use treatment in the past year received treatment.²

- ➔ [American Society of Addiction Medicine National Practice Guideline for the Treatment of Opioid Use Disorder \(2020 Focused Update\)](#)
- ➔ [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Treatment Improvement Protocol 63: Medications for Opioid Use Disorder](#)
- ➔ [CBH Clinical Practice Guidelines: Opioid Use Disorder \(OUD\)](#)

Among the Food and Drug Administration (FDA)-approved medications for OUD, there are three long-acting injectables (LAIs) available that do not need to be dosed daily:

- ➔ [Brixadi® \(buprenorphine\)](#)
- ➔ [Sublocade® \(buprenorphine\)](#)
- ➔ [Vivitrol® \(naltrexone\)](#)

These LAIs expand the treatment options that are available to members with OUD. Benefits of LAI medications for OUD may include:

- ➔ Helping maintain steady levels of medication^{3,4,5}
- ➔ Improving adherence to treatment⁶
- ➔ Improving treatment satisfaction⁷

Patient Considerations

The choice of pharmacotherapy for OUD should be based on patient-specific factors. Patients who may benefit from LAIs include those who have^{4,8}:

- ➔ Challenges with adherence
- ➔ Risk for misuse and diversion
- ➔ Risk for disruptions in treatment (e.g., incarceration)
- ➔ Challenges with storing medications (e.g., housing instability, children in the household, theft)
- ➔ Concerns with confidentiality and stigma around treatments that are dosed daily

FDA-Approved Medications and Dosing Information

Drug	Dosing	Comments
<u>Brixadi®</u>	Weekly (8, 16, 24, 32mg) or monthly (64, 96, 128mg)	Indicated in patients who have initiated treatment with a single dose of a transmucosal buprenorphine product or who are already being treated with buprenorphine ⁹ Please see the <u>prescribing information</u> for the full dosing information for Brixadi®
<u>Sublocade®</u>	Monthly (100, 300mg)	Indicated in patients who have initiated treatment with a buprenorphine-containing product, followed by dose adjustment for a minimum of 7 days ¹⁰ Patients should receive 300mg monthly for the first two months followed by a monthly maintenance dose of 100mg or 300mg ¹⁰ Please see the <u>prescribing information</u> for the full dosing information for Sublocade®
<u>Vivitrol®</u>	Monthly (380mg)	To avoid precipitating opioid withdrawal, an opioid-free duration of a minimum of 7–10 days is recommended prior to initiating Vivitrol® ¹¹ Also approved for the treatment of alcohol use disorder ¹¹ Please see the <u>prescribing information</u> for the full dosing information for Vivitrol®

Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) Program

Due to the risk of serious harm or death that could result from intravenous self-administration, [Brixadi®](#) and [Sublocade®](#) have an associated REMS program. The REMS programs contain requirements to ensure that these medications are only dispensed directly to healthcare professionals for administration.^{12,13}

Prescribers are not required to be certified in the REMS programs to prescribe these medications unless they intend to keep a stock of the medications at their practice and obtain the medications from a distributor. Pharmacies must be REMS-certified to obtain and dispense these medications.^{12,13}

Clinical Prior Authorization

Starting on January 1, 2020, the Pennsylvania Department of Human Services (DHS) instituted a single statewide [Preferred Drug List \(PDL\)](#). All the LAI medications for OUD are preferred on the PDL (*up to date as of 1/8/24*).¹⁴ This may reduce the administrative burden on prescribers and can improve access to treatment for members.

- ➔ Although preferred, these medications may require a prior authorization in certain situations, such as if the quantity prescribed exceeds [the quantity limits set by DHS](#).¹⁴ The Pennsylvania DHS Fee-for-Service Pharmacy Prior Authorization General Requirements and Procedures are [linked here](#) (*contains details about when a clinical prior authorization is necessary*).

Pharmacies that can Dispense and/or Administer

Brixadi[®] and Sublocade[®] must be dispensed from a REMS-certified pharmacy. Unlike the buprenorphine products, Vivitrol[®] is not a controlled substance and does not have an associated REMS program. However, not all pharmacies may carry the medication.

There are also some pharmacies that may offer additional services, such as medication administration. The links below show a list of pharmacies that can dispense and/or administer these LAI medications for OUD. The lists can be filtered by area/ZIP code to easily identify resources near you or the member you are working with.

- ➔ Brixadi[®]
 - » [Network Specialty Pharmacy Contact List](#)
- ➔ Sublocade[®]
 - » [Network Specialty Pharmacy Locator](#)
 - » [Provider and Additional Sites of Care Locator](#)
 - ➔ “An Additional Sites of Care (ASOC) is a facility or healthcare provider (HCP), other than a prescribing physician's office, that may provide a flexible option for the administration of SUBLOCADE injections. You may prefer patients receive SUBLOCADE at a facility other than your practice, while you continue to manage their overall care.”¹⁵
- ➔ Vivitrol[®]
 - » [Find a Provider](#)

For questions or support, please contact our pharmacy team at cbh.pharmacyinitiatives@phila.gov.

References

1. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US). [Medications for Substance Use Disorders | SAMHSA](#) [Internet]. Rockville (MD): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US); [updated 2024 Apr 11; cited 2024 Apr 24].
2. Center for Behavioral Health Statistics and Quality, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US). [2022 NSDUH Annual National Report | CBHSQ Data](#) [Internet]. Rockville (MD): Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (US); 2023 Nov 13 [cited 2024 Apr 24].
3. Albayaty M, Linden M, Olsson H, Johnsson M, Strandgården K, Tiberg F. Pharmacokinetic evaluation of once-weekly and once-monthly buprenorphine subcutaneous injection depots (CAM2038) versus intravenous and sublingual buprenorphine in healthy volunteers under naltrexone blockade: an open-label phase 1 study. *Adv Ther.* 2017 Feb;34(2):560-575.
4. Haight BR, Learned SM, Laffont CM, Fudala PJ, Zhao Y, Garofalo AS, Greenwald MK, Nadipelli VR, Ling W, Heidbreder C; RB-US-13-0001 Study Investigators. Efficacy and safety of a monthly buprenorphine depot injection for opioid use disorder: a multicentre, randomised, double-blind, placebo-controlled, phase 3 trial. *Lancet.* 2019 Feb 23;393(10173):778-790.

5. Dunbar JL, Turncliff RZ, Dong Q, Silverman BL, Ehrich EW, Lasseter KC. Single- and multiple-dose pharmacokinetics of long-acting injectable naltrexone. *Alcohol Clin Exp Res*. 2006 Mar;30(3):480-90.
6. Sullivan MA, Bisaga A, Pavlicova M, Carpenter KM, Choi CJ, Mishlen K, Levin FR, Mariani JJ, Nunes EV. A randomized trial comparing extended-release injectable suspension and oral naltrexone, both combined with behavioral therapy, for the treatment of opioid use disorder. *Am J Psychiatry*. 2019 Feb 1;176(2):129-137.
7. Lintzeris N, Dunlop AJ, Haber PS, Lubman DI, Graham R, Hutchinson S, Arunogiri S, Hayes V, Hjelmsström P, Svedberg A, Peterson S, Tiberg F. Patient-reported outcomes of treatment of opioid dependence with weekly and monthly subcutaneous depot vs daily sublingual buprenorphine: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2021 May 3;4(5):e219041.
8. Lofwall MR, Walsh SL, Nunes EV, Bailey GL, Sigmon SC, Kampman KM, Frost M, Tiberg F, Linden M, Sheldon B, Oosman S, Peterson S, Chen M, Kim S. Weekly and monthly subcutaneous buprenorphine depot formulations vs daily sublingual buprenorphine with naloxone for treatment of opioid use disorder: a randomized clinical trial. *JAMA Intern Med*. 2018 Jun 1;178(6):764-773.
9. Braeburn, Inc. Brixadi (buprenorphine injection) prescribing information. <https://www.brixadihcp.com/pdfs/brixadi-prescribing-information.pdf> (accessed 2024 Apr 24).
10. Indivior, Inc. Sublocade (buprenorphine solution) prescribing information. <https://www.sublocade.com/Content/pdf/prescribing-information.pdf> (accessed 2024 Apr 24).
11. Alkermes, Inc. Vivitrol (naltrexone kit) prescribing information. <https://www.vivitrol.com/content/pdfs/prescribing-information.pdf> (accessed 2024 Apr 24).
12. Braeburn, Inc. [Home | Brixadi REMS](#) [Internet]. Plymouth Meeting (PA): Braeburn, Inc.; c2023 [cited 2024 Apr 24].
13. Indivior. [Sublocade REMS – Home](#) [Internet]. Chesterfield (VA): Indivior UK Limited; c2023 [cited 2024 Apr 24].
14. Pennsylvania Department of Human Services. [Preferred Drug List](#) [Internet]. Harrisburg (PA): Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; c2024 [cited 2024 Apr 24].
15. InSupport. [Resources and Tools | InSupport.com](#) [Internet]. Chesterfield (VA): Indivior UK Limited; c2023 [cited 2024 Apr 24].