

Provider Frequently Asked Questions: Long-acting Injectable Buprenorphine Funding Program

Background

The long-acting injectable (LAI) buprenorphine funding program is for small providers treating Apple Health clients and the uninsured. Small providers are defined as a clinic with 5 or fewer licensed prescribers that prescribe Sublocade or Brixadi, not owned or operated by a hospital or carceral facility.

Through Engrossed Substitute Senate Bill 5950, Section 215(126), the Legislature appropriated \$3 million of the opioid abatement settlement funds to HCA to increase access to long-acting injectable (LAI) buprenorphine products during fiscal year 2024.

HCA must use these funds to:

- 1) Provide LAI buprenorphine products to small providers that are not financially affiliated with a hospital nor will any provider administer the medications received through this program to a patient in a carceral facility; and
- 2) Cover the cost and administration of the drug for uninsured individuals that do not qualify for other state or federal health insurance programs.

Learn more by reading [Senate Bill 5950, Section 215\(126\), pages 410-411](#).

What are the program objectives?

- 1) Allow small providers to have LAI buprenorphine stocked in the clinic when a patient with opioid use disorder comes in.
- 2) Ensure that small providers have funds to continue to administer LAI buprenorphine to patients after this funding ends.

How will the program work?

- 1) Clinic fills out the [Participating Provider Agreement](#).
- 2) HCA determines if clinic is eligible.
- 3) Clinic receives MMCAP Infuse ID for ordering.
- 4) Clinic given dollar limit to order any combination of Sublocade or Brixadi from distributor website.
- 5) HCA will approve order.
- 6) Medication will be shipped to clinic; HCA will be billed.

- 7) Clinic will submit Apple Health client claims to the managed care plan and submit Fee-for-Service client claims to HCA. If client is uninsured, no claim is submitted. If client is insured by a commercial plan, submit claim there.
- 8) Provider submits reconciliation report to HCA. Provider can submit as soon as medication is used so clinic does not run out.
- 9) HCA conducts claims reconciliation.
- 10) Clinic given dollar limit to order any combination of Sublocade or Brixadi from distributor website.
- 11) Repeat until funds are exhausted or deadline is reached.

Am I eligible?

For HCA to determine eligibility under this program, the clinic must meet the following requirements:

- 1) Clinic is not owned by a hospital.
- 2) Clinic is not owned by a carceral facility, and no medication received through this program will be administered to a patient in a carceral facility.
- 3) Clinic has 5 or fewer licensed prescribers that prescribe Sublocade or Brixadi for opioid use disorder. If clinic has more than 5 prescribers, please submit a letter with your application justifying why the clinic should be considered a small provider, including location and population served.
- 4) Clinic is Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) certified for Sublocade or Brixadi or both.
- 5) Medication will be stored according to REMS.

How will I continue to pay for LAI buprenorphine?

HCA wants to ensure that small providers can continue to administer LAI buprenorphine to patients after this program ends. For the duration of this program, the clinic will submit Apple Health managed care client claims to the managed care plan, Fee-for-Service client claims to HCA, and other insurance claims to the commercial plan. The clinic will be paid according to the Apple Health fee schedule, or the IHS encounter rate for Tribes, for the medication. The clinic is expected to allocate this money for future purchases of LAI buprenorphine for the uninsured when this program has ended. HCA will not ask for reporting or reconciliation on the purchase of additional doses outside of this program.

For uninsured patients, there is no claim reimbursement. Under this program, the cost to treat the uninsured is covered. Please use reimbursements to continue treating the uninsured after this program ends.

HCA contracted with MMCAP Infuse, a group purchasing organization for government facilities, to get their discounted rate on LAI buprenorphine. If the clinic is a non-profit, they are eligible to open their own MMCAP Infuse account. Non-profit clinics will then be able to continue bulk purchasing LAI buprenorphine products when this program ends.

What drug codes do I bill for?

There are 2 codes for each drug:

- J0577 - Injection, buprenorphine extended-release (Brixadi), less than or equal to 7 days of therapy
- J0578 - Injection, buprenorphine extended release (Brixadi), greater than 7 days and up to 28 days of therapy
- Q9991 - Injection, buprenorphine extended-release (Sublocade), less than or equal to 100 mg
- Q9992 - Injection, buprenorphine extended-release (Sublocade), greater than 100 mg

For Apple Health clients, providers will have to check the online [Billing guides and fee schedules](#) under “Professionally Administered Drugs” for the correct fees. The fee schedule is updated often. These drugs are covered with no prior authorization required.

If the client is uninsured, the provider will not bill or receive any additional payments.

If client is covered by a commercial plan, submit claims to that plan as usual for reimbursement.

When will the program end?

These funds are available through June 30, 2025. This program ends on June 30, 2025, or when funding is exhausted, whichever occurs first.

How do I apply?

- 1) Fill out and [Participating Provider Agreement](#) and sign it. If the clinic is unable to sign at the time of submission, go ahead and submit the agreement. If accepted, HCA will send for signature. A signed agreement is required to start purchasing.
- 2) Send to PDP@hca.wa.gov.