



Codebook for Increasing Access to Buprenorphine and Methadone During COVID-19

Prepared by Policy Surveillance Program

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CODEBOOK*June 2021*

Increasing Access to Buprenorphine and Methadone During COVID-19

Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD) treatment uses medications approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA), including buprenorphine and methadone, to treat people with opioid use disorder (OUD) in combination with counseling. During COVID-19, the federal government moved quickly to ensure continued access to MOUD by relaxing initial in-person visit requirements, paving the way for an increased use of telehealth. This dataset examines the degree to which states went beyond this federal baseline to expand access to buprenorphine, methadone, and other key provisions related to MOUD treatment by capturing state removal of prior authorization restrictions, the extension of take-home prescriptions, and naloxone co-prescribing laws added during COVID-19.

This dataset is cross-sectional and displays key features of state laws increasing access to buprenorphine and methadone during COVID-19 across all 50 states and the District of Columbia approved as of June 1, 2021.

There are three standard variables in every PDAPS dataset. They are:

JURISDICTION:

This is a dropdown selection in each coding form. It includes the jurisdictions coded in the dataset.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This date (MM/DD/YYYY) is the most recent effective date of the legal text captured for this place. The effective date represents the date the policy coded was put into effect.

VALID THROUGH DATE:

This date (MM/DD/YYYY) is the last date the policy was in effect as reflected by the legal text captured to code this policy.

AN IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT THE STATISTICAL DATA PAGE:

This codebook should be used in conjunction with the statistical data extract that can be downloaded from the dataset homepage by clicking on the Data button. The value labels defined below will correspond with the coded responses you will see on the Statistical data page. Coding questions that are not answered will show as a period (".") in the Excel cell. Coding questions can be intentionally not answered, such as when a state does not have a law and the coder therefor leaves the remaining coding answers as unanswered.

Questions	
Question 1:	Has the state removed the requirement for an in-person visit between a patient and a provider before starting telehealth medication for opioid use disorder (MOUD) treatment with buprenorphine during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary – mutually exclusive
Variable Name 1:	Initial_inperson_bup
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 2:	Has the state authorized telehealth-mediated MOUD treatment with buprenorphine for existing opioid treatment program (OTP) patients during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 2:	Telehealth_existing_bup
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 3:	Has the state authorized telehealth-mediated MOUD treatment with methadone for existing OTP patients during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 3:	Telehealth_existing_methadone
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 4:	Did the state remove MOUD treatment prior authorization requirements for Medicaid during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 4	Medicaid_PA
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 4.1:	Did the state remove buprenorphine prior authorization requirements for Medicaid?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 4.1:	Medicaid_bup_PA
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 4.2:	Did the state remove methadone prior authorization requirements for Medicaid?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 4.2:	Medicaid_methadone_PA
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No

Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 5:	Did the state remove MOUD treatment prior authorization requirements for commercial insurance during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 5:	Commercial_PA
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 5.1:	Did the state remove buprenorphine prior authorization requirements for commercial insurance?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 5.1:	Commercial_bup_PA
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 5.2:	Did the state remove methadone prior authorization requirements for commercial insurance?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 5.2:	Commercial_methadone_PA
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 6:	Has the state extended the dosage for take-home prescriptions of buprenorphine during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 6:	Extended_dosage_bup
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 7:	Has the state extended the dosage for take-home prescriptions of methadone during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 7:	Extended_dosage_methadone
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 8:	Did the state request a blanket exemption from SAMHSA authorizing OTPs to write extended take-home prescriptions for MOUDs during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 8:	Extended_prescription_SAMHSAexempt
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 9:	Has the state added the requirement of co-prescribing naloxone with buprenorphine during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 9:	Coprescribing_bup

Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 10:	Has the state added the requirement of co-prescribing naloxone with methadone during COVID-19?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 10:	Coprescribing_methadone
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes
Question 11:	Does the state make naloxone available to third parties without a patient-specific prescription?
Question Type:	Binary - mutually exclusive
Variable Name 11:	naloxone_nonspecific
Variable Values:	0, 1
Value Label:	0 = No
Value Label:	1 = Yes