

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](#) and signs it.
- 2) HCA determines if clinic is eligible.
- 3) Clinic receives MMCAP Infuse ID for ordering.
- 4) Clinic can order an established number 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.
- 8) Provider submits reconciliation report to PDP@hca.wa.gov.
- 9) HCA conducts claims reconciliation.
- 10) Clinic can order established number of medications again.
- 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.
- 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?

The budget is \$3 million through June 30, 2025. HCA wants to ensure that small providers can continue to administer LAI buprenorphine to patients after this funding ends. The clinic will submit Apple Health managed care client claims to the managed care plan and Fee-for-Service client claims to HCA. The clinic will be paid according to the Apple Health fee schedule for the medication and administration. The clinic is expected to allocate this money for future purchases of LAI buprenorphine when this program has ended.

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

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.
- 2) Send to PDP@hca.wa.gov.