

Injectable Buprenorphine: *Logistical Info for Clinics*

This resource guide provides logistical support for clinics wanting to offer long-acting injectable forms of buprenorphine – Sublocade™ and Brixadi™. Here we emphasize practical information on what your clinic needs to have in place to begin using these medications in practice.

Many providers and clinics interested in providing injectable buprenorphine have asked for information on best practice logistics for clinics offering injectable buprenorphine. We have developed this resource based on the practices of clinics experienced in offering Sublocade, Brixadi, or both.

Disclaimer: We are using the trade names for the two available injectable buprenorphine formulations – Sublocade™ and Brixadi™. We do not endorse one medication over another, yet we do want providers to understand these medications so they can tailor their care to the individuals they treat. If this resource guide sounds as if we are supportive of these medications, it's because we have read the science behind them and have known people who have benefitted from them. We do not receive any funding from companies who develop or sell these medications. Our goal is to increase options for people who have opioid use disorder.

Logistics of Offering Sublocade and Brixadi in Clinical Practice

How to access medication

1. Send prescription to REMS-certified pharmacy for pick-up by clinic or for rapid delivery to clinic. Include expected injection date/s on prescription and send to pharmacy in advance to give pharmacy time to obtain medication. With adequate advance notice of the next injection date, pharmacies will work to deliver in time for that date. Speak with individual pharmacies to understand their timeframes and workflow.
2. Buy and Bill program – REMS-certified sites can keep medication unassigned to individual patients on site to distribute as prescribed by site providers. (See below for REMS certification requirements.) Sites then bill insurer for medication. To initiate a Buy and Bill program, go to Brixadi and Sublocade REMS websites (brixadirems.com or sublocaderems.com), obtain REMS certifications, and then work with specialty distributors. Sublocade and Brixadi representatives in your area can support you in this process – see company websites to find your local representative: sublocade.com and brixadi.com.

Note: You may need to go through internal institutional processes to add these medications to the formulary.

Finding a specialty pharmacy that provides injectable buprenorphine

Below are examples of specialty pharmacies that send injectable buprenorphine within NW states. These specialty pharmacies can fill injectable buprenorphine prescriptions for Medicaid clients. Call an individual specialty pharmacy to determine whether it can fill prescriptions for other insurers.

- **Washington State**

1. Genoa Auburn, 253-288-2111
(generally can deliver within 48 hours once prescription with injection date received)
2. Albertsons Specialty Pharmacy, 877-466-8028
3. Genoa Spokane, 509-703-4543

- **Alaska**

1. Genoa Anchorage, 907-891-7079
2. Genoa Juneau, 877-658-0304

- **Idaho**

1. Genoa Boise, 208-576-4500
2. Albertsons Specialty Pharmacy, 877-466-8028

- **Montana**

Note: Montana requires prior authorization for injectable buprenorphine

1. Albertsons Specialty Pharmacy, 877-466-8028
2. Genoa Bozeman, 406-404-6978

- **Wyoming**

1. Genoa Casper, 307-439-5199

The figure in this resource can assist in finding specialty pharmacies that work with different insurers:
www.drugchannels.net/2024/05/mapping-vertical-integration-of.html

Other specialty pharmacies that may provide injectable buprenorphine, based on insurance coverage:

- For Sublocade: www.insupport.com/specialty-product/specialty-pharmacy-locator
- For Brixadi: www.brixadihcp.com/pdfs/specialty-pharmacy-contact-information.pdf

The application titled “Coverage Search” can assist in identifying which insurers cover Sublocade and Brixadi in different states.

Risk Evaluation and Mitigation Strategy (REMS) certification

Complete application form. Separate applications are needed for REMS certification for Sublocade (sublocaderems.com) and Brixadi (brixadirems.com).

Prescribing provider must have a DEA address that matches clinic address where injectable buprenorphine is stored.

Have a written protocol for injectable buprenorphine management which includes:

- Medication stored in secure, locked location – refrigerator (Sublocade) or drawer/cabinet (Brixadi)
- The only personnel who can handle medication are injecting nurses or prescribing/injecting providers
- All personnel handling medication must be trained (training can be done by drug reps or by reading resources and watching instructional videos on drug websites)
- The drug cannot be dispensed to/handled by the patient. Include clear signage and training that the drug is never to be dispensed to patients
- Patients are to be informed of serious adverse events, including possible death, from injecting in veins

Within 90 days of REMS certification audit is conducted to ensure compliance with protocol.

Must be ordered and shipped directly to clinic for administration or purchased and stocked on site through Buy and Bill program. See: sublocaderems.com and brixadirems.com.

Drug representatives can be very helpful in supporting this process for your clinical site.

Medication storage requirements

Sublocade:

- Can store in original packaging without refrigeration for up to 12 weeks prior to administration
- For longer storage must be refrigerated

Brixadi: No refrigeration needed for storage

Medication security

Sublocade: Locked refrigerator in a locked room (double locking)

Brixadi: Locked cabinet in a locked room (double locking)

Personnel requirements

1. **Prescribing provider:** medication prescription
2. **Nurse/Pharmacist:** medication injection
3. **Licensed clinical provider:** medication accountability
4. **Personnel to remind and follow-up** with patients (e.g., care manager, nurse)

Insurance coverage (WA State)

WA Medicaid programs typically cover without prior authorizations or limits. If outside of WA, coverage may be different. Commercial insurance coverage and costs vary. Costs should be checked before administration to allow for patient review.

Out-of-pocket costs (if not covered by insurance)

Sublocade: ~\$2100/month

Brixadi: ~\$427/week, \$1708/month

In Conclusion

With limited advanced planning and training of personnel, clinics can implement best practices and offer these treatment options to all patients with OUD.

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