

Medicare coverage of opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment

Medicare Part B now covers opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment received at opioid treatment programs (OTPs).

OTPs, also known as methadone clinics, are the only places where you can receive methadone to treat opioid use disorder. Before 2020, Medicare did not cover OTPs, which meant that you could not get Medicare coverage for any care you received at an OTP.

What services does Medicare cover?

Part B covers certain services provided by an OTP, including:

- FDA-approved opioid agonist and antagonist treatment medications
 - These medications are methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone
- Dispensing and administering of this medication
- Substance use counseling*
- Individual and group therapy
- Toxicology testing
- Intake activities
- Periodic assessments

*Starting in 2020, Medicare also covers substance use disorder counseling as a telehealth benefit in your home or in a health care setting. Telehealth benefits use technology to allow you to communicate with a provider who is not at your physical location.

How do I get Medicare-covered OTP services?

In order for you to get Medicare-covered OTP services, your OTP must be certified by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and enrolled in the Medicare program. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, make sure the OTP is also in your plan's network.

If you have both Medicare and Medicaid, and you were previously receiving Medicaid-covered OTP services, Medicaid will continue to pay for your treatment until your OTP is enrolled in Medicare.

How much do OTP services cost?

Once you meet the Medicare Part B deductible, you will not owe any cost-sharing (coinsurance or copayment) for OTP services. In 2020, the Part B deductible is \$198. If you have a Medicare Advantage Plan, contact your plan for cost information.