OPIOID DETOXIFICATION UNDER SEDATION OR GENERAL ANESTHESIA

Coverage for services, procedures, medical devices and drugs are dependent upon benefit eligibility as outlined in the member’s specific benefit plan. This Medical Coverage Guideline must be read in its entirety to determine coverage eligibility, if any.

The section identified as “Description” defines or describes a service, procedure, medical device or drug and is in no way intended as a statement of medical necessity and/or coverage.

The section identified as “Criteria” defines criteria to determine whether a service, procedure, medical device or drug is considered medically necessary or experimental or investigational.

State or federal mandates, e.g., FEP program, may dictate that any drug, device or biological product approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) may not be considered experimental or investigational and thus the drug, device or biological product may be assessed only on the basis of medical necessity.

Medical Coverage Guidelines are subject to change as new information becomes available.

For purposes of this Medical Coverage Guideline, the terms "experimental" and "investigational" are considered to be interchangeable.

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Description:

Opioid detoxification under general anesthesia or deep sedation is intended to remove the discomfort or memory of the symptoms of acute withdrawal. High doses of opioid antagonists, such as naltrexone, naloxone or nalmefene are used during opioid detoxification under general anesthesia. Benzodiazepine is used during detoxification under deep sedation. Opioid antagonists accelerate the acute phase of detoxification, completing it in 24-48 hours. Various drugs are given to control withdrawal symptoms. Hospital admission is required for detoxification under anesthesia. Detoxification under heavy sedation can be accomplished in the outpatient setting. May also be referred to as:

- Anesthesia-assisted Detox
- One-day Detox
- Rapid Detox
- Ultra-rapid Detox

Some specialized facilities offering ultra-rapid detoxification are Neuraad Treatment Centers, Nutmeg Intensive Rehabilitation and Center for Research and Treatment of Addiction (CITA).
OPIOID DETOXIFICATION UNDER SEDATION OR GENERAL ANESTHESIA  (cont.)

Criteria:

➢ Opioid detoxification under heavy sedation or general anesthesia is considered experimental or investigational based upon:

1. Insufficient scientific evidence to permit conclusions concerning the effect on health outcomes, and
2. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome, and
3. Insufficient evidence to support improvement of the net health outcome as much as, or more than, established alternatives.

Resources:


