

PRESS RELEASE

New FDA-Approved Sublocade Now Available at Soul Surgery

Health Insurance Coverage announced today, April 23, 2018

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) recently approved Sublocade™ as a new treatment for moderate-to-severe opioid use disorder in adult patients who have already initiated treatment with buprenorphine products. And most of Soul Surgery's provider insurance companies are now covering it.

Buprenorphine has been approved by the FDA for treatment of opioid addiction since October 2002; however, it is only recently that the injected form has been FDA sanctioned. Sublocade, the new form of buprenorphine, is an extended-release injection. With Sublocade, a steady dose of buprenorphine is released over a one-month period, reducing cravings and withdrawal symptoms. The benefit of Sublocade over the current sublingual form of buprenorphine, is that this injected form of the medication is steadily released into the patient's blood stream, so patients no longer need worry about compliance with their medication protocol. However, patients should know that Sublocade is not the initial medication for opioid use disorder and will only be administered to a patient who has already been receiving a maintenance dose of buprenorphine for at least 7 days. Buprenorphine for opioid use disorder is administered in larger doses during the detoxification stage but is then tapered to a maintenance-level dose. It is at this stage that Sublocade can be introduced. At the detoxification and early maintenance states, Buprenorphine dosages may need to be adjusted, so the long-lasting injectable form is ill-advised. Once the physician and patient are comfortable with buprenorphine, the injectable form, Sublocade, can be discussed.

Soul Surgery has done their research. In April 2018, Soul Surgery was one of the few Medication-Assisted Treatment Addiction and Behavioral Health facilities in the country attending the American Society of Addiction Medicine (ASAM) Annual Conference, “Innovations in Addiction Medicine and Science.” At the conference, an analysis was presented regarding the injectable form of buprenorphine, or Sublocade, on patients with Opioid Use Disorder (OUD). [Studies](#) reported significant patient satisfaction with Sublocade, indicating sustained improvements in mental health, addiction severity, and treatment effectiveness.

At Soul Surgery, Sublocade is administered to qualifying patients as part of their physician-licensed Medication-Assisted Treatment. And, as always, Soul Surgery embodies the whole person in treatment, integrating into every patient’s plan our licensed biopsychosocial protocols, the 12-Step program, and Med Spa amenities such as IV Therapy, Acupuncture, Massage, and BioFeedback. to name a few. Per the recommendation of the makers of Sublocade, Soul Surgery ensures that Sublocade is never a stand-alone product, but is [professionally integrated](#) with a “complete treatment plan that includes counseling and psychosocial support.”

Sublocade is a new tool that Soul Surgery has fully embraced. Longer-term maintenance for Opiate Use Disorder (O.U.D.) is now a reality.