



## Legislative Council Staff

*Nonpartisan Services for Colorado's Legislature*

# FISCAL NOTE

**Drafting Number:** LLS 18-0478  
**Prime Sponsors:** Sen. Tate

**Date:** February 22, 2018  
**Bill Status:** Senate Business  
**Fiscal Analyst:** Ryan Long | 303-866-2066  
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**Bill Topic:** MEDICATION-ASSISTED TREATMENT THROUGH PHARMACIES

**Summary of  
Fiscal Impact:**

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Revenue                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> TABOR Refund            |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> State Expenditure ( <i>minimal</i> ) | <input type="checkbox"/> Local Government        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> State Transfer                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Statutory Public Entity |

This bill clarifies regulations regarding services and payments for extended-release opioid antagonists. Beginning in FY 2018-19, it will minimally increase state workload on an ongoing basis.

**Appropriation  
Summary:** No appropriation is required.

**Fiscal Note  
Status:** The fiscal note reflects the introduced bill.

### Summary of Legislation

This bill clarifies that Medicaid must include extended-release opioid antagonists for use in medication-assisted treatment as a covered benefit. It further specifies that any qualified pharmacists who administer injectable medication for the treatment of substance use disorders must receive an enhanced dispensing fee.

### Background

The Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (HCPF) currently covers Vivitrol, which is a long-acting opioid antagonist. In addition, the department also covers other opioid antagonists for use in medication-assisted treatment, including Bunavail, buprenorphine HCl, buprenorphine-naloxone, naltrexone HCl, and Suboxone.

### State Expenditures

Beginning in FY 2018-19, this bill will minimally increase workload for the Medical Services Board to issue rules requiring providers and pharmacists to retain records proving that a collaborative pharmacy agreement is in place. HCPF staff would then have additional workload to include these records in its audit process for pharmacy claims data, which can be accomplished within existing appropriations. It is assumed that the cost for modifying HCPF's pharmacy claims system to allow payment of the enhanced dispensing fee can also be accomplished within existing

appropriations. Lastly, given that HCPF currently covers Vivitrol, which is a long-acting opioid antagonist for use in medication-assisted treatment, this bill codifies current practice concerning this type of medication.

**Effective Date**

The bill takes effect August 8, 2018, if the General Assembly adjourns on May 9, 2018, as scheduled, and no referendum petition is filed.

**State and Local Government Contacts**

Counties	Health Care Policy and Financing
Human Services	Information Technology
Law	Personnel