



**** Fee-For-Service Pharmacy Provider Notice #234 – Updated Buprenorphine-Naloxone Prior Authorization Waiver ****

February 21, 2019

In continued response to the opioid crisis, the Department for Medicaid Services (DMS) has approved changes to the Fee-For-Service (FFS) Pharmacy Program's prior authorization requirements for substance use disorder treatment prescriptions. Effective Friday, February 22, 2019, the preferred buprenorphine/naloxone oral product (currently Suboxone film) will be available without a prior authorization (PA) for recipients that are age 16 or older and where the prescribed daily dose of buprenorphine does not exceed 24 mg. This will replace the 14-day emergency supply PA waiver that was implemented in October 2018; single-agent buprenorphine will continue to be available under the emergency access PA waiver criteria established at that time (see FFS Provider Notice #232). Non-preferred treatments, including oral buprenorphine/naloxone products, injectable/implantable buprenorphine, and injectable naltrexone will still be subject to PA requirements; please continue to request PA for these products using the Universal PA Request Form – Buprenorphine.

This change is meant to improve access to treatment for Kentuckians diagnosed with opioid use disorder. Waiver of prior authorization for buprenorphine products is an evidence-based policy urgently needed in Kentucky to facilitate entry into comprehensive substance use disorder treatment.

When filling such prescriptions, providers and pharmacists should strive to co-dispense naloxone products that are formulated to resuscitate individuals who have overdosed on opioids. All members of the health care team should make every effort to facilitate entry into comprehensive substance used disorder treatment when appropriate for the individual in care.

Providers should continue to practice in accordance with current regulations promulgated by licensure boards regarding KASPER report query requirements as well as the standards of practice for prescribing any controlled substance (e.g. Kentucky Board of Medical Licensure 201 KAR 9:260 and 201 KAR 9:016; Kentucky Board of Nursing 201 KAR 20:057).

Thank you for helping Kentucky Medicaid members maintain access to prescription coverage by selecting drugs on the preferred drug list whenever possible. Please contact Magellan Medicaid Administration at kyproviders@magellanhealth.com for any additional information or questions you may have.

Sincerely,

Jade Range, CPhT

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Contracts Manager

kyproviders@magellanhealth.com

Resources to assist providers in caring for patients with substance use disorder

FindHelpNowKY

FindHelpNowKY.org is a real-time substance use disorder treatment availability locator and information center for Kentucky. The locator contains treatment providers and treatment openings across the Commonwealth of Kentucky including community mental health centers; private, non-profit, and faith-based treatment providers; and providers of medication assisted treatment.

<https://findhelpnowky.org/>

Statewide helpline at 1-833-8KY-HELP (1-833-859-4357)

Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy

The Office of Drug Control Policy is tasked to coordinate Kentucky's response to substance abuse.

Homepage -- <https://odcp.ky.gov/Pages/default.aspx>

Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Resources in Kentucky –

<https://odcp.ky.gov/Pages/Treatment-Resources.aspx>

Naloxone distribution sites: <https://odcp.ky.gov/Stop-Overdoses/Pages/Locations.aspx>

Operation UNITE Call Center

<https://operationunite.org/>

Operation UNITE (Unlawful Narcotics Investigations, Treatment & Education) is a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation created in 2003 by U.S. Congressman Harold "Hal" Rogers (KY-5th) to provide a regional, community-based, anti-drug response to the prescription drug epidemic sweeping across southern and eastern Kentucky. Operation UNITE serves 32 counties in southern and eastern Kentucky.

Don't Let Them Die

Governor's office social media initiative to engage Kentucky citizens to recognize the inherent value of human life – even in the grip of addiction – and take proactive steps to support their friends, family and communities as they overcome this crisis

<http://dontletthemdieky.com/>

GetHelpLex is a resource for people seeking facilities and services for substance use disorder (substance abuse/addiction) in and around Lexington, Kentucky

<http://gethelpflex.org/>

KY Dept for Behavioral Health, Developmental and Intellectual Disabilities

<http://dbhdid.ky.gov/kdbhdid/default.aspx>

SAHMSA

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) is the agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services that leads public health efforts to advance the behavioral health of the nation. SAMHSA's mission is to reduce the impact of substance abuse and mental illness on America's communities.

<https://www.samhsa.gov/disorders/substance-use>



****If you would like to be added to the Fee-For-Service Pharmacy Program distribution list to receive updates and information please email kyproviders@magellanhealth.com.****

Kentucky Medicaid Fee-for-Service Pharmacy Program's Contact Information		
Clinical Support Center	1-800-477-3071 Sunday – Saturday 24 hours a day	Please contact the Clinical Support Center to request a prior authorization (PA) or to check the status of a request. NOTE: The only drugs that are now required to be submitted via fax are Brand Medically Necessary, Buprenorphine products, Synagis®, and Zyvox®.
Pharmacy Support Center	1-800-432-7005 Sunday – Saturday 24 hours a day	Please contact the Pharmacy Support Center when claims assistance is required. Timely filing, lock-in, and early refill (ER) overrides can be obtained through this Call Center.
Provider Services	1-877-838-5085 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.	Please contact Provider Services if you have questions about enrollment or when updating your license or bank information.
Member Services	1-800-635-2570 Monday – Friday 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.	Please contact Member Services if you are a member or if you as the provider have questions regarding the member's benefits or eligibility coverage dates.