DHSS

MEDICAID & MEDICAL ASSISTANCE PROVIDER BULLETIN

Issue Date: July 14, 2017 Effective Date: July 1, 2017 17-001

TO: All DMMA Providers

SUBJECT: Buprenorphine/naloxone prescription review

Purpose: This bulletin updates and clarifies Delaware's efforts to expand access to treatment of Substance Use Disorder (SUD) treatments.

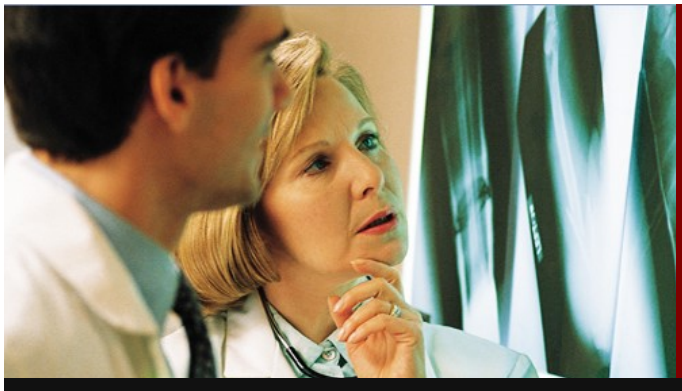
The Division of Medicaid and Medical Assistance (DMMA) is working collaboratively with other Divisions within the Department of Health & Social Services to provide treatment to our members suffering from Substance Use Disorder. In an effort to remove an initial barrier to treatment, the prior authorization requirement for buprenorphine/naloxone products that are on the preferred drug list has been eliminated.

Clients with dosing that can be achieved with one dose per day will not require any administrative effort for the prescription to be approved by Highmark Health Options, United HealthCare Community or DMMA fee-for-service. Currently, Suboxone® products are the preferred formulation.

Scope: This bulletin applies to DMMA's Managed Care Organizations and fee-for-service.

Background: Considerable evidence and experience from other states -- including the recent initiative by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) and the Center for Medicaid Services (CMS) to treat SUD and to combat the opioid epidemic requires DMMA members to have timely access to appropriate treatment.

Update and Clarification: Clients do not need prior authorization for prescriptions that utilize the preferred products at a once a day dosing of buprenorphine/naloxone.



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