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FLORIDA MEDICAID

A Division of the Agency for Health Care Administration

Florida Medicaid Health Care Alert

February 13, 2018

Provider Type(s): All

Substance Use Disorder Treatment Options and Prevention

Governor Rick Scott has declared the opioid epidemic a state of emergency in Florida (see Executive Order 17-146). In response to the opioid crisis, the Agency for Health Care

Administration (Agency) is implementing provisions under the Florida Medicaid program to assist in the prevention and treatment of substance use disorders.

Medication-assisted treatment combines behavioral health therapy and medications to treat substance use disorders. Florida Medicaid covers an array of behavioral health therapies and prescribed drugs (e.g., Naltrexone, Buprenorphine, Methadone, etc.) to treat substance use disorders and does not limit the length of time recipients may receive treatment.

Medication-Assisted Treatment:

1. The Agency has eliminated all prior authorization requirements for the following medication-assisted treatment options under Florida Medicaid:
 - Naltrexone tablets
 - Vivitrol (naltrexone) injectable – for recipients ages 18 years of age and older diagnosed with alcohol and/or opioid dependence.

2. Effective February 5, 2018, Florida Medicaid will reimburse for a 7-day supply of Suboxone (buprenorphine/naloxone) film or buprenorphine tablets (for pregnant or nursing mothers) without prior authorization. This will allow induction therapy to start immediately. Providers will be required to request prior authorization for continued therapy after the initial 7-day induction period. All prior authorization forms and criteria for prescribed drugs may be found here:
http://ahca.myflorida.com/medicaid/Prescribed_Drug/preferred_drug.shtml

Additional Changes Related to Prescribed Drugs:

Florida Medicaid has or will implement the following additional changes to prescribed drugs benefit:

1. Systems modifications:

- a. Prevent Florida Medicaid reimbursement for two or more long acting opioids prescribed simultaneously.
 - b. Alert pharmacists when an opioid and a benzodiazepine are prescribed in combination (this applies in the fee-for-service delivery system)
 - c. Require prescribers order a short acting opioid prior to consideration of a prescription for a long acting opioid
2. Created a prior authorization form consistent with the guidelines and recommendations from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
 3. Effective February 26, 2018, prescriptions for short acting narcotics, for the treatment of acute pain, will be limited to a maximum of 7-day supply. Prescribers may request an increase in the 7-day supply through the prior authorization process when medically necessary.
 4. Effective March 26, 2018, prescriptions for opioids for patients who are new to opioid treatment will be limited to a maximum dose equivalent to 90 milligrams of morphine per day.

For recipients enrolled in a Medicaid health plan, services are reimbursed by the plan in accordance with their established agreements/contracts with network providers. In no instance may the health plan impose limitations or exclusions more stringent than those specified in Florida Medicaid coverage policies. In any instance when compliance with provisions in the Florida Medicaid promulgated rules in Chapter 59G, F.A.C. conflicts with the terms of the health plan contract, the contract prevails. For additional information, please contact the plan directly.

QUESTIONS? FLMedicaidManagedCare@ahca.myflorida.com

COMPLAINTS OR ISSUES? ON LINE https://apps.ahca.myflorida.com/smmc_cirts/ | CALL 1-877-254-1055

The Agency for Health Care Administration is committed to its mission of providing "Better Health Care for All Floridians." The Agency administers Florida's Medicaid program, licenses and regulates more than 45,000 health care facilities and 37 health maintenance organizations, and publishes health care data and statistics at www.FloridaHealthFinder.gov. Additional information about Agency initiatives is available via [Facebook \(AHCAFlorida\)](#), [Twitter \(@AHCA_FL\)](#) and [YouTube \(/AHCAFlorida\)](#).

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