

November 22, 2019

<Provider Name>
<Provider Address 1>
<Provider Address 2>
<City> <State> zipcode5-zipcode4

Dear Provider:

RE: Removing Prior Authorization from Preferred Medication for Opioid Use Disorders

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is removing administrative barriers to improve access to medications for Opioid Use Disorders (OUD) for program beneficiaries. This initiative is part of the Department's statewide strategy to respond to the opioid epidemic and expands upon the steps already taken by the Department to streamline coverage for substance use treatment.

Effective December 2, 2019, the following Opioid Use Disorder medications identified as "**Preferred Agents**" on the Michigan Preferred Drug List (PDL) will **no longer require clinical prior authorization (PA)** when prescribed in accordance with U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved labeling:

- Buprenorphine SL tabs
- Buprenorphine/Naloxone SL tabs
- Sublocade® SC injection
- Suboxone® SL films
- Zubsolv® SL tabs

Note: Naltrexone tabs and Vivitrol® IM injection will continue to be covered without PA.

PA will still be required for the following PDL "**Non-Preferred Agents**", with documentation why a "Preferred Agent" cannot be used:

- Bunavail® SL films
- Buprenorphine/Naloxone SL films

To maximize coverage and cost effectiveness, the Department identifies products in select drug classes as either "Preferred" or "Non-Preferred" on the Michigan PDL. It is important to understand that federal Medicaid drug rebates are unique to state Medicaid programs and may result in select branded products being "Preferred". This happens when the brand product net cost to the state after drug manufacturer rebates is less than the generic. Preferring a branded

drug may be confusing to pharmacies and commercial insurers who typically see their cost for branded products as higher than generic alternatives.

The Michigan PDL is available at: <https://michigan.magellanrx.com/provider/>.

The Department is working on several other related initiatives, including a new Federal grant project which will evaluate and work to increase substance use treatment capacity in the state, especially capacity to provide OUD medications, along with improving reimbursement for the critical services being provided.

Any questions regarding this letter should be directed to MDHHSPharmacyServices@michigan.gov.

Thank you for your continued partnership and care for our Medicaid and Healthy Michigan Plan program beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Massey', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Kate Massey, Director
Medical Services Administration