

BENEFICIARY GUIDE SHEET***IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID COVERAGE
FOR BUPRENORPHINE/NALOXONE AND BUPRENORPHINE
WHEN TREATING OPIOID DEPENDENCE***

September 1, 2012, Mississippi Medicaid implemented a new policy for the coverage of buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine therapy. This letter describes the new policies.

General Guidelines

- Buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine therapy will be approved only for treating opioid dependence.
- Buprenorphine can only be approved during pregnancy.
- A beneficiary will only be covered for a total of **24 months** of therapy with buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine. Even when treated by different doctors.
- Going without medication for 60 days or more will require the beneficiary to **restart** treatment.
- A beneficiary will be allowed **only one restart** of treatment.
- Over time doses must be reduced in order to help the beneficiary quit being dependent on medication. Medicaid will only pay for the maximum daily dose allowed for each step in therapy. You should discuss with your doctor the right dose for each step in therapy.

Opiate Use Restrictions

Beneficiaries being treated for opioid dependence should not be taking medications containing opiates. At times, such as major surgery, pain medications might be needed. Use of opiate medications during buprenorphine/naloxone and buprenorphine therapy will have the following restrictions.

- Beneficiaries cannot get a prescription for more than 5 days of an opiate while on buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine therapy.
- Beneficiaries cannot get a buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine refill if they have gotten a prescription for more than 5 days of an opiate in the last 30 days.
- Beneficiaries cannot have more than a total of 10 days of opiate therapy during the time on buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine therapy. If this happens, beneficiary will no longer be eligible for buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine coverage.

It is important that beneficiaries on buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine have pain medication written only by the doctor who writes their buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine. When this is not possible, beneficiaries should be sure to tell the other doctor they are taking buprenorphine/naloxone or buprenorphine to avoid problems with coverage.

Things Beneficiaries Should Do To Succeed in Therapy

- Work with the doctor to select the right treatment plan.
- Follow the treatment plan.
- Attend counseling sessions as directed by doctor.
- Report all other medications to the doctor.
- Do not take opiates without first checking with the doctor.