

Changes to AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast's Prior Authorization Requirement for Products Used to Treat Opioid Dependence

Effective April 1, 2017, the following prior authorization requirements for buprenorphine products used to treat opioid dependence will apply:

- Prescriptions must be prescribed by a medical assistance (Medicaid) participating provider or the behavioral health managed care organization operating in the member's county of residence.
- Provide a copy of the lab analysis or oral fluid testing with negative results for opioids and positive results for buprenorphine and norbuprenorphine.
- Evidence of a signed patient treatment contract must be provided.
- Evidence of a signed member consent authorizing the physician prescribing buprenorphine products to release member information in the patient record for purposes of referral to substance use or behavioral health treatment.

Authorization periods have been adjusted as follows:

- Initial authorizations limited to one month.
- Renewal authorizations limited three months.
- Requests for therapy **initiation** must include evidence of an evaluation by a licensed Drug and Alcohol (D&A) provider.
 - Documentation must include date of initial evaluation; name of substance abuse treatment program, the date member was referred to the program, name of provider, and frequency of counseling.
- Requests for therapy **continuation** must include evidence of ongoing, formal substance abuse counseling:
 - Once patient has completed a substance abuse or treatment program, documentation of ongoing counseling is required that includes the name of the substance abuse counseling program, name of counselor, and frequency of counseling.
 - Note that Narcotics Anonymous or other 12-step programs will no longer satisfy this substance abuse counseling requirement.

Effective April 1, 2017, Members will be required to use a generic buprenorphine/naloxone medication unless the member's physician obtains prior authorization for the use of brand.

- Members currently not receiving a generic may continue to receive the brand until the end of their current authorization period, or April 1, 2017, whichever date is later.

If you have questions please contact AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Pharmacy Services at 1-866-610-2774 or AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast Pharmacy Services at 1-888-208-1020.