



## REMINDER: Substance Use Disorder Drug Treatment, Medicaid Managed Care (MMC) and Fee-for Service (FFS) Coverage

### Important Legislation Regarding Drugs to Treat Substance Use Disorders:

- Medicaid policy **requires Medicaid FFS and Medicaid Managed Care to provide at least 5 days' coverage for emergencies, without prior authorization, for medications used to treat substance use disorders.** This includes medication associated with the management of opioid withdrawal and/or stabilization as well as medication used for opioid overdose reversal.
- Social Services Law section 364-j and Public Health Law section 273, **prohibits prior authorization under Medicaid Fee-For-Service and Medicaid Managed Care for initial or renewal prescriptions for preferred or formulary forms of buprenorphine or injectable naltrexone when used for detoxification or maintenance treatment of opioid addiction.** The Food and Drug Administration and Compendia supported frequency quantity and /or duration limits may continue to be applied.  
[http://www.health.ny.gov/health\\_care/medicaid/program/update/2016/aug16\\_mu.pdf](http://www.health.ny.gov/health_care/medicaid/program/update/2016/aug16_mu.pdf)

### Plan Contacts and Formulary Resource:

**NYS Medicaid Managed Care Pharmacy Benefit Information Center** [website](#) contains information that can assist providers in identifying which medications are included on the NYS MMC formularies. A comprehensive listing of *Drugs to Treat Chemical Dependence* showing formulary coverage by plan can be found in the [DRUG QUICKLIST](#) section under the *Therapeutic Classes, Other* tab and can be customized to show coverage by all or select plans. The list can also be downloaded and printed.

The NYS Medicaid Managed Care Pharmacy Benefit Information Center formulary coverage is updated quarterly. This website also includes links to each individual plans' website, contact information and formulary to access more in-depth information about each plan.

For information on substance use disorder drug coverage in FFS see the New York State Medicaid Fee-For-Service [Preferred Drug list](#).

### Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ):

#### **Q1. What are the options if the pharmacy does not have the medication in stock or not enough medication in stock?**

**A.** The prescriber can work with the pharmacist to determine another pharmacy that has the medication in stock and send a new prescription to that pharmacy. If the pharmacy has limited stock, they can partially fill the prescription and dispense the remainder when the product is received according to applicable NYS law.

#### **Q2. What can a pharmacy do if the wholesaler is limiting the amount of medication they can receive?**

**A.** Pharmacies should contact their wholesaler to determine if it is a shortage issue or a limit being imposed on the product in question. If the wholesaler has imposed a limit, the pharmacy can work with the wholesaler to increase that limit. This may include providing additional information regarding their dispensing patterns.

#### **Q3. What if the generic product is not available and the brand product is available and in stock?**

**A.** The pharmacist can contact the insurance plan who can authorize a pharmacy override to allow the brand medication to be dispensed if the generic is unavailable due to a marketplace shortage or if the product is temporarily unavailable.