



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES
Bureau for Medical Services
Office of Pharmacy Services
350 Capitol Street - Room 251
Charleston, West Virginia 25301-3706
Phone: (304) 558-1700 - Fax: (304) 558-1542

Joe Manchin III
Governor

Patsy A. Hardy, FACHE, MSN, MBA
Cabinet Secretary

June 11, 2010

Dear Enrolled Physician,

On August 1, 2010, West Virginia Medicaid will require prior authorization for all prescriptions of Subutex® and Suboxone®, and their generic equivalents, if available. There has been a significant increase in the utilization of these medications and in their diversion and misuse. We have worked with addiction treatment experts to develop prior authorization criteria that provide adequate doses of both Suboxone® and Subutex®, when appropriate, for pharmacologic support of addiction treatment.

All doses for both these medications will be prior authorized, and only for the FDA-approved indication of opiate dependence/addiction. All prescribers will be required to have a DATA (Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000) waiver as proof of qualification to prescribe Subutex®/Suboxone®, and to be enrolled with West Virginia Medicaid and billing Medicaid for treatment or management of opiate addiction in the patients for which they are prescribing. Submission of the DEA-X number and the Medicaid enrollment number are required and will be verified when PA requests are made.

Requests for prior authorization must be submitted in writing to the Rational Drug Therapy Program by fax, mail, or electronic submission using the West Virginia Medicaid approved form. The criteria for coverage adopted by the West Virginia Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board and a prior authorization form are included with this letter. These forms may be copied or downloaded at <http://www.wvdhhr.org/bms> for your convenience. The form may also be submitted electronically through the Bureau for Medical Services' (BMS) Mediweb Portal. We have also included a list of your WV Medicaid patients who are currently being treated with Subutex® or Suboxone®. To prevent any delays in the treatment of your patients, please be proactive in requesting prior authorization for their medication.

Maintenance dosing will be limited to 16 mg per day. Current evidence shows that higher doses do not increase the success of the treatment program, but lead to an increased incidence of drug diversion and unnecessary cost burden. Dose optimization will be required and may necessitate tablet splitting by your patients.

Subutex® will only be approved for patients who are pregnant. Patients currently on Subutex® who are not pregnant will be required to switch to Suboxone®.

Concomitant use of benzodiazepines, hypnotics, and opiates with Subutex® or Suboxone® will not be approved and current prescriptions for these agents in

combination will deny at the pharmacy. Other CNS depressants such as sedatives, antidepressants, muscle relaxants, etc., will continue to be considered for payment, but patients should be warned of the extreme danger of these combinations. Alternative treatment options should be considered while the patient is receiving Subutex®/Suboxone®.

We appreciate your cooperation and willingness to work with patients committed to overcoming their dependence on opiates.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J.B. Becker, M.D.", with a circled "MI" at the end.

James B. Becker, M.D.
Medical Director
Bureau for Medical Services

Enclosures