

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

Transmittal 23-31

TO: Prescribers, Pharmacy Providers, Pharmacy Benefit Managers

FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

DATE: July 18, 2023

SUBJECT: Clarification of Coverage of Over-the-Counter Narcan® Nasal Spray

Purpose

The purpose of this transmittal is to clarify the coverage of Narcan® (4 milligram naloxone hydrochloride nasal spray), following the recent approval by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to allow the sale of the drug without a prescription, or “over-the-counter” (OTC). Narcan® is an opioid antagonist indicated for the emergency treatment of known or suspected opioid overdose. The Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) remains committed to addressing the evolving opioid epidemic by responding to providers’ needs and concerns related to timely treatment access.

Details: Coverage of Over-the-Counter Narcan®

DHCF supports the recent FDA approval of OTC Narcan® and believes that this will help improve access to harm reduction and mitigate the risk of opioid overdose. However, if a beneficiary were to purchase Narcan® OTC, they would have to pay out of pocket for the cost of the drug. In order for a beneficiary to have minimal out of pocket costs,¹ and a pharmacy to receive Medicaid reimbursement for Narcan®, the beneficiary must have a prescription for the medication.² This requirement applies to both the Fee for Service Medicaid program and the Medicaid managed care program.

To receive Narcan® at no cost to the beneficiary, they may go to a pharmacy that has a standing order. Narcan® is available at no cost and no prescription at various pharmacies and community sites across the District as a part of the LiveLongDC campaign. More information can be found here: <https://dbh.dc.gov/page/where-can-i-get-naloxone-dc>.

¹ There is a \$1 co-payment associated with prescription drugs under the District’s Medicaid program.

² 42 C.F.R. §§ 1396r-8(k)(4)

Medicaid is a joint federal-state program administered by states within federal rules and requirements. Among the requirements are maintaining documentation, including prescriptions, for all drugs covered and paid by DHCF whether prescription or OTC.

Contact

If you have questions, please contact Charlene Fairfax, RPh, Senior Pharmacist, Health Care Delivery Management Administration (HCDMA), DHCF at Charlene.fairfax@dc.gov or (202) 442-9076; Gidey Amare, PharmD, RPh, Pharmacist, HCDMA, DHCF at gidey.amare@dc.gov or (202) 442-5952; or Tayiana Reed, PharmD, Pharmacist, HCDMA, DHCF at Tayiana.reed1@dc.gov or 202-246-9750

If you encounter problems related to claim processing with the FFS PBM, please contact the PBM Call Center at (800) 273-4962 or Allison Williams at ANWilliams1@magellanhealth.com or (804) 548-0184 or James Woods at JLWoods@magellanhealth.com or (804) 548-0199 ext. 80199.

If you have an MCO-specific question, please contact one of the following:

- **AmeriHealth Caritas DC:** Tracey Davis, PharmD at tdavis4@amerihealthcaritasdc.com or (202) 669-5347, or Pharmacy Services at (888) 602-3741.
- **MedStar Family Choice:** Eileen Langstraat, PharmD at eileen.r.langstraat@medstar.net or (855) 798-4244.
- **Amerigroup DC:** Oluwadamilola (Lola) Omopariola, PharmD, BCACP at oluwadamilola.omopariola@amerigroup.com or (571)814-8296, or the Pharmacy Help Desk at (833)235-2029, or Pharmacy Enrollee Services at (833)214-3604.
- **HSCSN:** Contact Leslie Addison, RPH, MPH at laddison@hschealth.org or (202) 495-7659.

cc: DC Behavioral Health Association
DC Coalition of Disability Service Providers
DC Health Care Association
DC Home Health Association
DC Hospital Association
DC Primary Care Association
Medical Society of the District of Columbia
Washington DC Pharmacists Association