

GOVERNMENT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
Department of Health Care Finance



Office of the Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director

Transmittal 24-16

TO: DC Medicaid Providers
FROM: Melisa Byrd
Senior Deputy Director and Medicaid Director
DATE: April 17, 2024
SUBJECT: Suboxone and Buprenorphine-Containing Products Daily Dosing Limit Increase

Purpose

The purpose of this transmittal is to inform facilities and providers about a change in the District of Columbia's (DC's) Suboxone and Buprenorphine-containing products daily dosing limit. Effective May 1, 2024, the daily dosing limit for Suboxone and Buprenorphine-containing products without a prior authorization will increase to 32mg. The current daily dosing limit is 24mg.

Details

The percent of overdose deaths involving fentanyl in DC have steadily increased since 2016. In 2023, 98% of overdose deaths involved fentanyl. The data provided by the FFS and managed care programs show that prior authorization (PA) requests for Suboxone and Buprenorphine-containing products dosages above 24mg are overwhelmingly approved. Given the identified widespread fentanyl dependence, the higher total dose limit of 32 mg could be medically necessary without requiring the prior authorization. With the rise in fatal overdoses in DC and the prevalence of fentanyl in opioid overdoses in the District, DHCF will eliminate the Medicaid PA requirement for Suboxone and Buprenorphine-containing products above 24mg (not to exceed 32mg). This change also applies to all Medicaid Managed Care Plans (MCPs).

Contact

If you have questions, please contact Cavella Bishop, Program Manager, Office of the Chief Medical Officer, Department of Health Care Finance (DHCF) at cavella.bishop@dc.gov or (202) 724-8936.

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