




Michelle Lujan Grisham, Governor
David R. Scrase, M.D., Secretary
Nicole Comeaux, J.D., M.P.H., Director

Letter of Direction #40

Date: August 19, 2020

To: Centennial Care 2.0 Managed Care Organizations

From: Nicole Comeaux, Director, Medical Assistance Division
Neal Bowen, Director, Behavioral Health Services Division 

Subject: Generic First Policy, Prior Authorization, and Reimbursement for Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Medications; Narcan and Naloxone

Title: Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) Medications; Narcan and Naloxone

The Purpose of this letter of direction is to provide the Centennial Care Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) direction to proceed with accepting the generic first policy, requirement of prior authorization and reimbursement for Nasal Narcan.

MCOs are directed to adopt a generic first policy for buprenorphine/naloxone products.

MCOs are also directed to require a prior authorization for buprenorphine-only oral products, due to higher abuse potential.

Nasal Narcan

Nasal Narcan is an easy to use formulation of naloxone that increases the likelihood of successful utilization by individuals who are not trained health care providers, particularly when accompanied by meaningful education and guidance from the dispensing pharmacy.

MCOs are directed to reimburse pharmacies and other providers for nasal Narcan, as well as for naloxone kits, and to pay the incentive fee for patient counseling and education whenever either medication is dispensed.

This LOD will sunset with the next promulgation of the New Mexico Administrative Code section on specialized behavioral health services (NMAC 8.321.2)

Any questions regarding this LOD should be directed to BHSD Deputy Director Jenny Felmley, PhD jenny.felmley@state.nm.us