



**Commonwealth of Massachusetts**  
**Executive Office of Health and Human Services**  
**Office of Medicaid**  
[www.mass.gov/masshealth](http://www.mass.gov/masshealth)

**MassHealth**  
**Managed Care Entity Bulletin 17**  
**July 2019**

**TO:** Managed Care Entities

**FROM:** Daniel Tsai, Assistant Secretary for MassHealth

**RE: Prior Authorization and Utilization Management for Suboxone®  
(buprenorphine/naloxone)**

### **Background**

To facilitate the provision of medically necessary medication to treat substance use disorders, EOHHS is establishing the following requirements effective immediately.

### **Utilization Management including Prior Authorization for Suboxone® (buprenorphine/naloxone)**

MassHealth Managed Care Entities (MCEs), including Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs), One Care plans, Senior Care Options (SCOs), and the Massachusetts Behavioral Health Partnership (MBHP) must provide access to at least one buprenorphine/naloxone treatment at Suboxone® equivalent doses of 24 mg/day or less without prior authorization.

While MCEs may continue to impose quantity limits on buprenorphine/naloxone treatments, any such quantity limits must accommodate this rule, regardless of dosage strength. Therefore, if an MCE imposes quantity limits, the MCE must still allow for up to a total daily dose equal to or less than 24 mg without prior authorization.

### **MassHealth Website**

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### **Questions**

If you have any questions about the information in this bulletin, please contact the MassHealth Customer Service Center at (800) 841-2900, email your inquiry to [providersupport@mahealth.net](mailto:providersupport@mahealth.net), or fax your inquiry to (617) 988-8974.