



## THE PRESCRIBER e-LETTER

### Updates to Brixadi® (buprenorphine) Coverage and New Legislation on Overdose Reversal Drugs

#### Update on Brixadi® (buprenorphine) Coverage Effective July 1, 2025

MassHealth is issuing a correction to Prescriber e-Letter Issue 6, April 2025. Effective July 1, 2025, Brixadi® (buprenorphine) will no longer require prior authorization (PA) and will be designated as a preferred drug on the MassHealth Drug List.

#### New Legislative Requirements for Opioid Reversal Drugs

An Act Relative to Treatments and Coverage for Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Coach Licensure, [Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024](#), expands access to opioid reversal drugs (emergency opioid antagonists or EOAs) to enhance patient safety and address opioid-related overdoses. These measures aim to ensure broader access to life-saving opioid reversal drugs and enhance education and availability for at-risk patients. Key provisions include:

- **Hospital Requirements.** Hospitals must educate patients on EOAs and prescribe or dispense at least two doses of EOAs to patients with a history of overdose, opioid use, or opioid use disorder (OUD) upon discharge.
- **Substance Use Disorder (SUD) Treatment Facilities.** SUD treatment facilities are required to educate patients on EOAs and dispense two doses of EOAs to patients upon discharge.
- **Pharmacy Requirements.** Pharmacies in areas with high incidences of overdoses must maintain a sufficient and consistent supply of EOAs. This includes stocking EOAs approved for over-the-counter sale in addition to those requiring a prescription. Pharmacies unable to comply due to insufficient supply must report to the Department of Public Health (DPH).
  - Although MassHealth generally requires a prescription before it will cover drugs, there is a standing order that allows pharmacists to dispense naloxone without an individual prescription. Please refer to the standing order for naloxone at [www.mass.gov/doc/naloxonestanding-order-1/download](http://www.mass.gov/doc/naloxonestanding-order-1/download) and M.G.L. c. 94C, § 19B for further information.
  - MassHealth covers EOAs such as naloxone without cost-sharing or prior authorization.

Additional information regarding drug coverage can be found on the [MassHealth Drug List](#).

## References

1. Sublocade® (buprenorphine extended-release) injection, for subcutaneous use [package insert]. North Chesterfield, VA: Indivior PLC; 2025.
2. Brixadi® [package insert]. Plymouth Meeting (PA): Braeburn Pharmaceuticals; 2023 May.
3. An Act Relative to Treatments and Coverage for Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Coach Licensure, Chapter 285 of the Acts of 2024, Available at: <https://malegislature.gov/Laws/SessionLaws/Acts/2024/Chapter285>
4. Fact Sheet: An Act Relative to Treatments and Coverage for Substance Use Disorder and Recovery Coach Licensure. Senate Press Room: Commonwealth of Massachusetts. Dec 14, 2024. Available at: [Press Room](#)

The Prescriber e-Letter is an update designed to enhance the transparency and efficiency of the MassHealth drug prior-authorization (PA) process and the MassHealth Drug List. Each issue highlights key clinical information and updates to the MassHealth Drug List. The Prescriber E-Letter was prepared by the MassHealth Drug Utilization Review Program and the MassHealth Pharmacy Program.