TO: Managed Care Organizations, Accountable Care Partnership Plans, and MassHealth’s Behavioral Health Vendor

FROM: Amanda Cassel Kraft, Acting Medicaid Director

RE: Updates Regarding Coverage of Medications for Addiction Treatment in the Opioid Treatment Programs

Background

Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), Accountable Care Partnership Plans (ACPPs), and MassHealth’s behavioral health vendor are required to cover opioid treatment services for enrolled MassHealth members. (See Appendix C of the MCO and ACPP contracts and Appendix A of the behavioral health vendor’s contract.)

Opioid treatment programs (OTPs) are outpatient programs that deliver opioid treatment services by providing monitored administering and dispensing of FDA-approved medications for the treatment of opioid use disorder, as well as counseling services. Unlike other providers of medications for addiction treatment (MAT), OTPs do not prescribe medications, but administer and dispense such medications within the structure of the program. Historically, OTPs provided only methadone and counseling services and were unable to administer and dispense buprenorphine and naltrexone. OTPs are now increasingly able to administer and dispense all FDA-approved MAT, including methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone.

As part of the opioid treatment services covered by the plan, MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor must cover the administering and dispensing of all FDA-approved MAT, including methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone, when provided by OTPs in their networks or the networks of their behavioral health subcontractor, if applicable.

All contractual requirements remain in effect except as otherwise stated below. EOHHS intends to update the MCO, ACPP, and behavioral health vendor’s contracts to reflect these changes.

Updates Regarding Coverage of Administering and Dispensing of Buprenorphine through OTPs

Effective June 1, 2020, MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor must pay OTPs for the preparation and administration of buprenorphine doses, using code H0047, for each day that the OTP provides a dose of medication for a member. MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor must also pay, using code H0047, for medications prepared and provided by the OTP as take-home doses allowable based on state and federal regulations.
Also effective June 1, 2020, MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor should no longer pay claims submitted using J0575 and J0574. Rather, MCOs, ACPPS, and the behavioral health vendor must accept claims from OTPs using combinations of J0573 and J0572 that equal the clinically appropriate dose for the member. Specifically, MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor should allow OTPs to use J0573 (for doses greater than 3mg, but less than or equal to 6mg) to approach the appropriate dose in multiples of 3.1-6mg and then, when necessary, a single unit of J0572 (for doses less than or equal to 3mg) to achieve the exact dose (e.g., 24 mg dose = 4 units J0573, 22mg = 4 units J0573, 20 mg dose = 3 units J0573 and 1 unit J0572).

MCOs, ACPPS, and the behavioral health vendor are required to use the following rates and billing codes. MassHealth intends to amend the MCO/ACPP contract Appendix T and the behavioral health vendor contract Appendix L to reflect these changes.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Procedure Code</th>
<th>Procedure Description</th>
<th>Unit Cost</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>H0047</td>
<td>Alcohol and/or other drug abuse services, not otherwise specified; oral medication preparation and administration (buprenorphine and associated drug screens); may not be combined with H0033; may be billed once per each day a member receives medication</td>
<td>$ 10.36</td>
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<tr>
<td>J0572</td>
<td>Buprenorphine/naloxone, oral, less than or equal to 3 mg (maximum of one unit per day; may be combined with J0573 as medically necessary)</td>
<td>$ 4.34</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>J0573</td>
<td>Buprenorphine/naloxone, oral, greater than 3 mg, but less than or equal to 6 mg; (may be billed in sufficient increments to achieve appropriate dose, may be combined with one unit of J0572 as medically necessary)</td>
<td>$ 7.76</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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**Questions**

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