



**MassHealth**  
**Managed Care Entity Bulletin 28**  
**May 2020**

**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.

**MassHealth  
Managed Care Entity Bulletin 28  
May 2020  
Page 2 of 2**

Also effective June 1, 2020, MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor should no longer pay claims submitted using JO575 and JO574. Rather, MCOs, ACPPS, and the behavioral health vendor must accept claims from OTPs using combinations of JO573 and JO572 that equal the clinically appropriate dose for the member. Specifically, MCOs, ACPPs, and the behavioral health vendor should allow OTPs to use JO573 (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 JO572 (for doses less than or equal to 3mg) to achieve the exact dose (e.g., 24 mg dose = 4 units JO573, 22mg = 4 units JO573, 20 mg dose = 3 units JO573 and 1 unit JO572).

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.

<b>Procedure Code</b>	<b>Procedure Description</b>	<b>Unit Cost</b>
H0047	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	\$ 10.36
JO572	Buprenorphine/naloxone, oral, less than or equal to 3 mg (maximum of one unit per day; may be combined with JO573 as medically necessary)	\$ 4.34
JO573	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 JO572 as medically necessary)	\$ 7.76

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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.