



**State of Louisiana**  
Department of Health and Hospitals  
Bureau of Health Services Financing

May 20, 2009

Dear Physician:

Louisiana Medicaid's Pharmacy Benefits Management (LMPBM) staff and Louisiana Medicaid's Drug Utilization Review Board are charged with assuring that pharmacy services billed to Medicaid are appropriate and medically necessary. We are notifying physician providers of upcoming edits and limitations that LMPBM is implementing regarding buprenorphine agents (Suboxone® and Subutex®) used to treat opioid dependence. The Pharmacy Benefits Management staff has worked in concert with the Office of Addictive Disorders and Louisiana's Drug Utilization Review Board to establish the parameters for Medicaid coverage.

The Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Compliance Audit Program will review claims for adherence to program policy. Physicians' records and prescription hardcopies of patients receiving buprenorphine products may be requested to assure compliance with LMPBM Program policy.

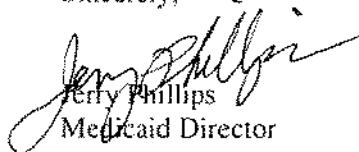
Attached please find:

- A list of pharmacy claims for patients who have received a buprenorphine (Suboxone®) prescription prescribed by you
- These recipients' medication profile(s) which include(s) all prescription medications reimbursed by Louisiana Medicaid for the most current year. Please review the profile(s) as a tool to assist you in treating your patient(s).
- A Provider Enrollment File Update Form

Enclosed is information regarding the use of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) to review your patients' controlled substance medication histories.

If you have any concerns or comments regarding this correspondence, you may contact Melwyn B. Wendt at 225-342-9768 or send a fax to 225-342-1980. Your continued cooperation and support of the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Benefits Management Program are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

  
Jerry Phillips  
Medicaid Director

JP/MJT/mbw

Enclosure

**Buprenorphine HCL/Naloxone HCL (Suboxone® ) and Buprenorphine HCL (Subutex® )**

Suboxone® and Subutex® sublingual tablets are indicated for the treatment of opioid dependence. Suboxone® contains buprenorphine (a partial agonist at the mu-opioid receptor and an antagonist at the kappa-opioid receptor) and naloxone (an antagonist at the mu-opioid receptor). Subutex® contains buprenorphine only. **Effective June 17, 2009**, prescriptions for Suboxone® and Subutex® will only be reimbursed by Louisiana Medicaid when the following criteria are met:

**Prescriber Requirements**

- The prescriber is a physician
- The prescriber has an XDEA number
- The prescriber is licensed to prescribe Suboxone® and Subutex® and has provided a copy of his/her current Controlled Substance Registration Certificate indicating the XDEA number and a copy of the enclosed Provider Enrollment File Update Form to Unisys Provider Enrollment by faxing the certification and File Update Form to **Provider Enrollment ATTN: Lois Harpole at Fax Number 1- 225-216-6392**. File Update Forms when faxed with the Controlled Substance Registration Certificate will be accepted by Unisys Provider Enrollment. Provider Enrollment can be reached via telephone at 1-225-216-6370. The Provider Enrollment File Update Form can also be found on [www.lamedicaid.com](http://www.lamedicaid.com) under Provider Enrollment.

**ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Code Requirements**

An appropriate ICD-9-CM diagnosis code indicating opioid dependence must be documented on the hardcopy prescription. Written or verbal consultation with the pharmacist is acceptable when the appropriate ICD-9-CM code is documented (by the physician or pharmacist) on the hardcopy prescription. Prescription claims for Suboxone® and Subutex® shall be submitted with a diagnosis code in the following ranges:

<b>ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Code</b>	<b>Description</b>
304.0 through 304.03	Opioid Type Dependence
304.7 through 304.73	Combinations of Opioid Type Drug with Other

Prescription claims submitted with diagnosis codes for Opioid Abuse or other diagnosis codes outside the specified ranges shall deny. There are no provisions for overrides.

**Maximum Dosage Requirements**

- Prescriptions for Suboxone® are allowed a maximum daily dose of 24mg/day.
- Prescriptions for Subutex® are allowed a maximum daily dose of 16mg/day.

Prescriptions for Suboxone® and Subutex® which exceed the maximum daily dosage requirement will deny. There are no provisions for overrides.

### New Prescription Requirement

Only original prescriptions for Suboxone® or Subutex® will be allowed. The physician must authorize a new prescription each time Suboxone® or Subutex® is needed. **Refills** for Suboxone® or Subutex® will deny.

### Concurrent Opioid Analgesic and/or Benzodiazepine Therapies

Concurrent prescriptions for opioid analgesics and/or benzodiazepines with Suboxone® or Subutex® active prescriptions will only be reimbursed when written by the same physician who prescribed Suboxone® or Subutex® for the patient.

When a patient has an active prescription for any opioid analgesic (including Suboxone® or Subutex®) written by the **same prescriber**, the incoming prescription will deny as a therapeutic duplication. The pharmacist will have to contact the physician for **his/her authorization** to assure the physician wants concurrent therapy before filling the incoming opioid prescription and override the denial edit.

Concurrent opioid analgesic and/or benzodiazepine prescriptions **written by a different prescriber** for patients on Suboxone® or Subutex® **will deny**. There are no provisions for overrides for concurrent prescriptions written by different prescribers.

Incoming prescriptions for Suboxone® or Subutex® will deny when there is an active prescription for either Suboxone® or Subutex® on the recipient's file. There are no provisions for overrides.

### Age Requirement

Suboxone® or Subutex® therapy is indicated for ages sixteen and older. Claims for recipients less than sixteen years old will deny.

### Prescription Monitoring Program

The Louisiana Board of Pharmacy operates a Prescription Monitoring Program which captures the controlled substances dispensed in Louisiana. Prescribers and dispensers are permitted to apply for authority to access the information directly via a web portal, but only for their patients. To learn more about the program, please go to [www.labp.com](http://www.labp.com) website.

**Electronic Clinical Drug Inquiry (e-CDI) Application**

The e-CDI provides a clinical drug inquiry application which provides a four-month drug history dispensed to Medicaid recipients by all types of prescribers. This data is available 24 hours a day, updated on a daily basis, only accessible by an authorized Medicaid provider and is available in a print friendly version. This application is available in the secured provider site of [www.lamedicaid.com](http://www.lamedicaid.com)

The major benefits of the e-CDI data are:

- Allows you to evaluate a Medicaid recipient's drug usage over a four month period;
- Displays whether the recipient has been prescribed similarly clinically effective drugs;
- Facilitates assessment of **your patient , based on your clinical expertise and knowledge, the drug(s) that have been prescribed by you and /or other providers---determining whether to discontinue some of the drugs, prescribe less costly drugs, or prescribe drugs that are more clinically appropriate.**

**The Medicaid Clinical Data Inquiry (e-CDI) data can be accessed by:**

- Step 1: Using your Internet browser; access the Internet Web page: [www.lamedicaid.com](http://www.lamedicaid.com);
- Step 2: Click on the red "Provider Log-In" button in the upper left margin of the home page;
- Step 3: Enter "your 7-digit Medicaid Provider ID number" in the data entry box;
- Step 4: Follow the instructions for establishing "your online account" with lamedicaid;
- Step 5: Follow the instructions for "activation of your online account";  
NOTE: Provider enrollment instructions are available in a print friendly version for steps 4 & 5 by clicking the provider instructions link;
- Step 6: Follow the instructions for the "use of the e-CDI link to view recipient prescription information".  
NOTE: Instructions for step 6 are available in a print friendly version.  
NOTE: For assistance with any of the above steps, please call 1-877-598-8753.