Bobby Jindal
GOVERNOR

Bruce D. Greenstein
SECRETARY

State of Louisiana

Department of Health and Hospitals
BAYOU HEALTH

February 14, 2013

Dear Physician:

The Louisiana Legacy Medicaid Pharmacy Program, in collaboration with the Louisiana Medicaid Drug Utilization Review Board and the Office of Behavioral Health, has established a new maximum daily dosage for Suboxone® (buprenorphine/naloxone), an agent used for opioid dependence. A maximum daily dosage of up to 24 mg/day (based on buprenorphine) will be allowed for ninety consecutive days. After the ninety days has elapsed, a maximum daily dosage of up to 16 mg/day (based on buprenorphine) will be allowed.

Compliance associated with program policy will be verified by the Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Compliance Program. Physicians' records and prescription hardcopies of patients receiving buprenorphine products may be requested to ensure compliance with program policy.

Enclosed please find:

- An outline of the Suboxone® / Subutex® Criteria for Legacy Medicaid;
- Information regarding the use of the Louisiana Board of Pharmacy Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) and the Louisiana Medicaid Electronic Clinical Data Inquiry (e-CDI) Application to review your patients' clinical and medication histories; and
- A list of Legacy Medicaid patients who filled Suboxone® prescriptions written by you from November 1, 2012, through January 31, 2013.
    - You may obtain Medicaid medication histories for these patients by faxing your request to Kim Talbot at 318-812-2940. Please include patients' names and Medicaid identification numbers with your request. These histories include prescription medications reimbursed by Louisiana Medicaid for the most current year. These histories may be used as a tool to assist you in treating your patients.

If you have any concerns or comments regarding this correspondence, you may contact Melwyn B. Wendt at 225-342-7878 or send a fax to 225-342-1980. Your continued cooperation and support of the Louisiana Medicaid Program are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

J. Ruth Kennedy
Medicaid Director

JRK/mbw
Enclosures

Buprenorphine/Naloxone (Suboxone®) and Buprenorphine (Subutex®)
Criteria for Legacy Medicaid

Suboxone® Film is 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.

New Prescription Requirement

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

Age Requirement

Suboxone® or Subutex® therapy is indicated for patients sixteen years of age and older. Claims for recipients less than sixteen years of age deny.

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:

ICD-9-CM Diagnosis Code Ranges	Diagnosis Description
304.0 through 304.03	Opioid Type Dependence
304.7 through 304.73	Combinations of Opioid Type Drug with Any Other (Dependence)

Prescription claims submitted with diagnosis codes for opioid abuse or any other diagnosis codes outside of the above specified ranges deny. There are no provisions for overrides.

Maximum Daily Dosage Requirements

Suboxone®

- Beginning with the first Suboxone® claim submitted with a date of service on or after February 1, 2013, a maximum daily dosage of up to 24 mg/day (based on buprenorphine) is allowed per recipient for an initial ninety consecutive day period.
- After the initial ninety day period, a maximum daily dosage limit of up to 16 mg/day (based on buprenorphine) is allowed per recipient.

Subutex®

- The maximum daily dosage limit for Subutex® is 16 mg/day.

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

Concurrent Opioid Analgesic and/or Benzodiazepine Therapies

- Concurrent prescriptions for opioid analgesics and/or benzodiazepines with active Suboxone® or Subutex® prescriptions are only 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 denies as a therapeutic duplication. The pharmacist must contact the physician for his/her authorization to assure the physician wants concurrent therapy before overriding the denial edit and filling the incoming opioid prescription.
- Concurrent opioid analgesic and/or benzodiazepine prescriptions written by a different prescriber for patients on Suboxone® or Subutex® deny. There are no provisions for overrides for concurrent prescriptions written by different prescribers.
- Incoming prescriptions for Suboxone® or Subutex® deny when there is an active prescription for either Suboxone® or Subutex® on the recipient's file. There are no provisions for overrides.

Physician Prescriber Requirements for Suboxone® and Subutex®

- The prescriber must be a physician.
- The physician prescriber must have an "X" DEA number.
- The physician prescriber must be licensed to prescribe Suboxone® and Subutex®.
- The physician prescriber must provide a copy of his/her current Controlled Substance Registration Certificate, containing an "X" DEA number to Provider Enrollment.

*** * IMPORTANT INFORMATION: MEDICAID PROVIDER RE-ENROLLMENT * ***

- The Department of Health and Hospitals is implementing the new Provider Recipient Integrated System for Medicaid (PRISM) which will replace the current Medicaid Management Information System (MMIS) in the fall of 2014.
- All current Medicaid providers will be required to re-enroll with PRISM by December 31, 2013.
- PRISM re-enrollment training for providers begins in February 2013. Provider re-enrollment will begin February 28, 2013.
- Suboxone® / Subutex® prescribers will need to provide proof of continued eligibility to prescribe Suboxone® / Subutex® as a component of the PRISM re-enrollment process.
- For training and re-enrollment information, please visit the PRISM website at www.medicaid.la.gov/PRISM. Beginning on or after February 28, 2013, if further clarification is needed, you may call the PRISM Enrollment Hotline: 1-888-780-7858.

Online Tools to Assist in Patient Care Management

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.pharmacy.la.gov .

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 .

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 ;

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 Louisiana Medicaid;

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.