

Substance Abuse Disorder (SUD) Waiver

The West Virginia Department of Health and Human Resources (DHHR), Bureau for Medical Services (BMS) has received approval from the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services of a 1115 Waiver to treat substance abuse disorder (SUD).

“This waiver allows DHHR to more effectively prevent and treat substance use issues for Medicaid enrollees through expanded treatment services,” said Cindy Beane, Commissioner of DHHR’s BMS.

The SUD Waiver will be implemented in two phases. Beginning January 1, 2018, coverage for methadone treatment services, the Naloxone Initiative and the introduction of the Screening, Brief Intervention and Referral to Treatment (SBIRT) method will begin. Full implementation will begin on July 1, 2018, and will include short-term residential treatment services, peer recovery support services and withdrawal management services. Other features of the SUD Waiver include the following:

- Strategies focusing on SUD prevention and treatment among adolescents.
- Building on existing efforts to raise awareness and address the prevalence of babies born with exposure to substance use.
- Expanding coverage of withdrawal management in regionally identified settings.
- Enhancing access to outpatient SUD treatment as appropriate when residential treatment is not required.
- Covering a set of clinical and peer recovery support services and recovery housing supports designed to promote and sustain long-term recovery.

All of these services will be available to the following:

- All West Virginia Medicaid members as well as those served through managed care and fee-for-service (FFS) delivery systems.
- At-risk families will be eligible for services to allow for community-based treatment and supports to prevent children from being placed out of the home.
- Foster care youth will be able to receive SUD treatment services through the Early and Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment (EPSDT) benefit.

A copy of the waiver is available at <http://dhhr.wv.gov/bms/CMS/Pages/Waiver-Approvals.aspx>.

Watch this website as more information becomes available.