



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN RESOURCES  
BUREAU FOR MEDICAL SERVICES



OFFICE OF PHARMACY SERVICES  
Policy for the Coverage of Suboxone® Film (buprenorphine/naloxone) and  
buprenorphine tablets  
**Effective 07/31/2017**

- 1) Must be prescribed by a licensed physician who qualifies for a waiver under the Drug Addiction Treatment Act (DATA) and has notified the Center for Substance Abuse Treatment of the intention to treat addiction patients and has been assigned a DEA(X) number; **AND**
- 2) The prescriber must be a WV Medicaid enrolled provider (enrolled directly, enrolled with WV Medicaid HMO, employed by a facility that is enrolled with WV Medicaid) who certifies he/she is treating the patient and billing WV Medicaid for this service; **AND**
- 3) Confirmed diagnosis of opiate abuse/dependence (diagnosis code is required); **AND**
- 4) The patient must be sixteen (16) years of age or older. Exceptions can be handled on appeal to the Medical Director; **AND**
- 5) Buprenorphine tablets may only be approved for use during pregnancy or in the case of a well-documented and clinically verified life-threatening allergy to naloxone\*; **AND**
- 6) Maximum initial dose is 24mg per day for a maximum of a sixty (60) day period; initial dosing is limited to once per lifetime; **AND**
- 7) Maximum maintenance dose is 16mg per day; **AND**
- 8) Maximum quantity limit is 2 dosage units per day (when appropriate, lower doses may require dosage unit splitting); **AND**
- 9) Early refills are not permitted, including replacement of lost or stolen medication; **AND**
- 10) Concurrent therapy with benzodiazepines, hypnotics, and opioids (tramadol) will be denied; **AND**
- 11) Patient must be warned about the dangers of ingesting concurrent sedating medications; **AND**
- 12) Attestation from prescriber that the Board of Pharmacy Prescription Drug Monitoring Program database has been reviewed and that patient has been warned about the dangers of ingesting concurrent sedating medications.

*\*Naloxone allergy documentation MUST include a detailed description of symptoms. (Life threatening allergic reactions are generally considered to be anaphylactic in nature, Stevens-Johnson syndrome or DRESS).*