Important Information West Virginia Medicaid Wants You to Know About Substance Use Disorder Treatment

Do you or someone you love need help for drug and alcohol problems?

More than 880 West Virginians died of a drug overdose in 2016, the highest rate of drug overdoses in the United States. This situation has hurt many West Virginia families and communities. To fight this trend and help West Virginians struggling with substance use issues, West Virginia Medicaid now provides services to help stop and treat drug and alcohol problems.

What to do if someone overdoses on drugs:

A drug overdose is a life threatening EMERGENCY. If you think you or someone else has overdosed, call 911 at once. Signs may include but are not limited to confusion; dizziness; small pupils; trouble thinking, speaking, or walking; pale face; blue- or purple-colored lips, fingernails, or parts of the body; throwing up; choking sounds; seizures; low blood pressure; slowed heart rate; abnormal amounts of drowsiness; fainting spells (nodding off); limp body; unresponsive; coma; difficulty breathing; slow, shallow breathing or rapid breaths; and/or loss of breathing.

Narcan® can keep people from dying and is given by trained medical staff. Medicaid will pay for Narcan®. You can also keep Narcan® on hand if someone you know is taking any opioids. It is available at your local pharmacy, and a prescription is not required. Information on the Narcan® Standing Order is available at: www.DHHR.BPH_Narcan_Standing_Orders. It can save your life or the life of someone you love.

How do I get help for drug problems?

If you or someone you love needs help for alcohol, opioids or illegal drugs, etc., you can call or text:

1-844-HELP4WV (1-844-435-7498)

A number of providers in West Virginia offer different kinds of care, including outpatient, residential and hospital treatment. As of July 1, 2018 Medicaid will now cover residential care.

Why is it important to get help?

If you have a drug or alcohol problem and want to turn your life around (or get help for people you love), call or text 1-844-HELP4WV (1-844-435-7498). Getting sober from heroin or other drugs may be the most important thing you or your loved one can do to stay alive.

What if I am on methadone?

Medicaid now covers this drug as part of treatment, which can help you or a loved one get off drugs that can cause death. If you have been paying cash for methadone, you can now work with your opioid treatment provider (OTP) to make sure that Medicaid is billed for these services. Methadone can help you lessen withdrawal systems and help you on your way to recovery.

What if I or someone I love needs help with other issues?

Some of the programs in West Virginia can help you or your loved one with other physical and mental health issues. Information on other special programs is available at http://www.helpandhopewv.org.