

**STATE OF TENNESSEE
DIVISION OF TENNCARE
310 Great Circle Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37243**

This notice is to advise you of information regarding the **TennCare Pharmacy Program**.

**Please forward or copy the information in this notice to all providers
who may be affected by these processing changes.**

*****Buprenorphine Pharmacy Clarification*****

This communiqué is being sent to provide further clarification on the buprenorphine update changes that became effective May 15, 2023. Additionally, you will find an updated memo that properly reflects the recent buprenorphine changes for your records.

BUPRENORPHINE COVERAGE UPDATE

The following buprenorphine coverage allowances became effective May 15, 2023:

- For BESMART providers, no PA is required for up to max daily dose (MDD) of 16 mg of preferred products buprenorphine/naloxone tabs and films.
- For Non-BESMART providers, no PA is required for an initial 5-day supply of buprenorphine/naloxone tabs up to 16 mg MDD if there is no paid claims in the last 180 days.

Please be advised, the recent buprenorphine update changes only apply to **preferred** buprenorphine/naloxone products as displayed below. Therefore, buprenorphine changes that occurred on May 15, 2023 will only apply to buprenorphine/naloxone film and tablets, for providers within the BESMART Network. For, all other TennCare providers, the recent buprenorphine update will only apply to buprenorphine/naloxone tabs. All non-preferred agents, including single buprenorphine containing products will remain subject to prior authorization requirements.

Preferred Drugs	Non-Preferred Drugs
I. ANALGESICS	
<u>Buprenorphine and Buprenorphine/Naloxone</u>	
<u>Buprenorphine Enhanced Supportive Medication-Assisted Recovery and Treatment (BESMART) Network Provider only:</u>	
buprenorphine/naloxone tabs ^{PA, QL}	<i>Bunavail</i> ^{® PA, QL} <i>Suboxone</i> ^{® film PA, QL}
buprenorphine/naloxone film ^{PA, QL}	<i>buprenorphine</i> ^{PA, QL} <i>Zubsolv</i> ^{® PA, QL}
<u>All other TennCare Providers:</u>	
buprenorphine/naloxone tabs ^{PA, QL}	<i>Bunavail</i> ^{® PA, QL} <i>Suboxone</i> ^{® film PA, QL}
	<i>buprenorphine</i> ^{PA, QL} <i>Zubsolv</i> ^{® PA, QL}
	<i>buprenorphine/naloxone film</i> ^{PA, QL}

Thank you for your valued participation in the TennCare program.

To: All Providers
From: Victor Wu, MD, MPH
Chief Medical Officer TennCare
Date: June 9th, 2023

Subject: Updates for TennCare Buprenorphine Prior Authorization criteria

The Division of TennCare and its Managed Care Contractors (MCCs) would like to inform you of changes to the buprenorphine prescription benefit for TennCare members. These system and procedural changes impact prior authorization requirements for providers who prescribe preferred buprenorphine/naloxone products to TennCare members and those providers who participate in the Buprenorphine Enhanced Supportive Medication Assisted Recovery and Treatment (BESMART) provider network. These coverage allowances and changes to prior authorization processes became effective on 5/15/2023.

For all TennCare providers who prescribe preferred buprenorphine/naloxone products to TennCare members:

- TennCare providers are now able to prescribe preferred buprenorphine/naloxone tablets up to a five (5) day supply of sixteen (16) mg or less once every six (6) months to TennCare members for therapy induction, and no Prior Authorization (PA) will be required. This is applicable for all prescribers.

BESMART TennCare providers who prescribe preferred buprenorphine/naloxone products to TennCare members:

- BESMART TennCare providers will be able to prescribe preferred buprenorphine/naloxone film and tablet products up to sixteen (16) mg of per day throughout induction, stabilization, and maintenance therapy phases as needed, and no PA will be required. The prior authorization requirements for non-preferred buprenorphine-based products and for dosing greater than sixteen (16) mg per day remain in place. Prior authorizations currently in place for greater than 16mg per day will not be affected by this update.

TennCare prescribers who are not part of the BESMART network will continue to remain subject to the existing PA criteria, except as noted above.¹ As a reminder and in accordance with Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) and the Tennessee Nonresidential Buprenorphine Treatment Guidelines, medication-assisted treatment providers are expected to utilize the lowest effective dose of buprenorphine for the treatment of substance use disorder.

- For questions regarding pharmacy coverage, PAs, and dosage limits, contact OptumRx at 1-866-434-5524
- To learn more about the BESMART provider network, contact your respective TennCare Managed Care Organization:
 - Amerigroup Community Care: AGPbesmart@amerigroup.com
 - BlueCare Tennessee: MAT_Referral_CM_UM@bcbst.com
 - UnitedHealthcare Community Plan: SE_Government_Programs@uhc.com

¹ Link to prior authorization form: <https://www.optumrx.com/content/dam/openenrollment/pdfs/TennCare/prescriber/prior-authorization-forms/Buprenorphine%20Products%20PA%20Form.pdf>