

To: Buprenorphine Enhanced Supportive Medication-Assisted Recovery and Treatment (BESMART) Providers
From: The Division of TennCare, the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and Pharmacy Benefits Manager OptumRx
Date: April 1, 2021
Subject: Updates Expanding TennCare Buprenorphine Dosage Limits used for Medication Assisted Treatment

The Division of TennCare, the Managed Care Organizations (MCOs), and Pharmacy Benefits Manager OptumRx want to inform you of TennCare rule changes to the buprenorphine prescription benefit for members who receive care through the *Buprenorphine Enhanced Supportive Medication Assisted Recovery and Treatment (BESMART) Program*. Since 2019, TennCare's MCOs— Amerigroup Community Care, BlueCare Tennessee, and UnitedHealthCare Community Plan – have contracted with medication assisted treatment (MAT) providers to provide comprehensive opioid use disorder (OUD) treatment and recovery services in accordance with TennCare's Buprenorphine MAT Program Description. This treatment network of providers is now known as the BESMART program.

Effective April 15, 2021, TennCare members who receive OUD treatment by a BESMART Provider will be eligible to receive buprenorphine product coverage with the following daily dosage limits:

- TennCare Members may receive up to sixteen (16) mg of buprenorphine products per day throughout induction, stabilization, and maintenance phases as medically necessary¹.
- TennCare members that meet specific clinical criteria² (found on the updated Prior Authorization (PA) form) may receive a maximum daily dosage of twenty-four (24) mg of buprenorphine products for the defined length of time established in in the clinical criteria.

TennCare Members receiving OUD treated by a non-BESMART Provider will not be eligible for the additional buprenorphine product coverage listed above. These members will continue to remain subject to the existing dosage limits which allow for a maximum buprenorphine dosage of 16 mg per day for no more than 6 months. If these members choose to change and receive OUD treatment through a BESMART Provider, they would then be eligible to receive the additional buprenorphine products coverage. The buprenorphine Prior Authorization (PA) form³ has been updated to reflect dosage limit changes. As a reminder and in accordance with best practices of outpatient buprenorphine treatment guidelines, all MAT providers are expected to utilize the lowest effective dose of buprenorphine for the members' OUD treatment.

TennCare and its Managed Care Contractors will host an **educational webinar on April 15, 2021 at 12 pm CT** to provide in-depth details on BESMART Program rule changes and the updated buprenorphine dosage limits. Please register to attend by signing up at: <https://tinyurl.com/BESMART2021>

The event will be recorded and posted to TennCare's website <https://www.tn.gov/tenncare/tenncare-s-opioid-strategy.html>. The website also provides information on the BESMART Program, program description, and an interest form for becoming a BESMART provider. If you have questions for TennCare MCCs, please contact:

- For questions on pharmacy coverage, PAs, and dosage limits, contact the OptumRx Call Center: 1-866-434-5524
- To learn more about the benefits of becoming a BESMART provider and/or any questions regarding contracting into the BESMART Program, contact:
 - Amerigroup Community Care: 615-232-2160
 - BlueCare Tennessee: MAT_Referral_CM_UM@bcbst.com
 - UnitedHealthCare Community Plan: SE_Government_Programs@uhc.com

¹ For induction and stabilization/maintenance therapy phases in adults, TennCare covers up to 8.4 mg of buprenorphine per day when product selected is Bunavail®, and up to 16 mg per day when product selected is Suboxone®, Subutex®, or generic equivalents.

² Link to the clinical criteria: <https://www.optumrx.com/content/dam/openenrollment/pdfs/Tenncare/prescriber/clinical-criteria/Criteria%20PDL.pdf>

³ Link to prior authorization form: <https://www.optumrx.com/content/dam/openenrollment/pdfs/Tenncare/prescriber/prior-authorization-forms/Buprenorphine%20Products%20PA%20Form.pdf>