

## Expanded MAT Access

Dear Pharmacy and Therapeutics committee (P&T) Member:

**We the undersigned** represent providers who are working tirelessly at the frontlines of the opioid epidemic in the State of Nevada. We ask for your help in our fight and call on members of the committee to immediately **vote to facilitate access to all FDA approved buprenorphine treatment options, by eliminating any treatment barriers, (like prior authorizations and quantity limits)** and aggressively seek to facilitate the goal of patient *treatment on demand*.

Mitigating this scourge will require the collaboration of all stakeholders. As with any epidemic, a core component to addressing the crisis is to ensure physicians have easy availability to all the medical interventions necessary to effectively treat their patients.

The P&T Committee has a critical role in this as well. Today, Nevada Medicaid provides buprenorphine/naloxone medication however in order to gain access to these buprenorphine/naloxone therapies that in the judgement of the physician best meet the patient's needs, providers are forced to undertake significant efforts in the form of prior authorizations that result in additional delays and interruptions to treatment. Even a 24-hour delay in this process can have significant negative consequences.

While the medical impact of delays and interruptions on patient treatment is a concern for all with a medical condition, for those with opioid dependence, the impact is often even more insidious. This is because delay to medications for our patients could result in not only compromising the patient's personal health but can easily spill-over into impacting their family relations, employment and potentially lead to criminal justice consequences. This must not be allowed to happen in the State of Nevada.

We look for Nevada to be a national leader in meeting this epidemic in a comprehensive manner and to take the lead from states like Illinois that recently made a clear statement about their commitment to ending this epidemic by eliminating all barriers to all buprenorphine medications. You have an opportunity to help us meet this epidemic by removing the prior authorizations and quantity limits needed for all buprenorphine products to treat this disease.

Thank you for your considerations.

With Respect,