

**Managed Care Operations Memorandum**  
**General Operations**  
**MCOPS Memo # 05/2020-013**

**Date:** May 26, 2020

**Subject:** Removal of Prior Authorization for Sublocade™ (buprenorphine extended-release) Injection

**To:** All Physical Health (PH) HealthChoices Managed Care Organizations (MCOs) – Statewide

**From:** Laurie Rock, Director, Bureau of Managed Care Operations

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**Purpose:**

To notify the HealthChoices PH-MCOs of the removal of Prior Authorization for Sublocade™ (buprenorphine extended-release) Injection.

**Background:**

Sublocade™ (buprenorphine extended-release) injection is a once-monthly injection indicated for the treatment of opioid use disorder. It is a preferred medication in the Opioid Dependence Treatments class on the Pennsylvania Medical Assistance Statewide Preferred Drug List (PDL).

**Discussion:**

The prior authorization guidelines for Opioid Dependence Treatments have been revised to indicate that prescriptions for Sublocade™ (buprenorphine extended-release) injection that do not exceed the quantity limit no longer require prior authorization.

The Statewide PDL can be viewed at: [www.papdl.com](http://www.papdl.com).

Prior authorization guidelines for Opioid Dependence Treatments can be found on the MCO websites and the Department's website at:

<https://www.dhs.pa.gov/providers/Pharmacy-Services/Pages/Clinical-Guidelines.aspx>.

**Next Steps:**

PH-MCOs should align their policies with the guidance issues in this operations memorandum.

**Obsolete:**

This MC OPS Memo will remain in effect until further notice.