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

Purpose:


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 SublocadeTM (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.

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.