



STATE OF MARYLAND

DHMH


Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene

Larry Hogan, Governor - Boyd Rutherford, Lt. Governor - Van Mitchell, Secretary

Maryland Medical Assistance Program

May 23, 2016

TO: Maryland Medicaid Providers who Prescribed Suboxone[®] Film in the past 12 months

FROM: Athos Alexandrou, Director, Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program 

RE: Status of Opiate Dependence Treatment Medications on the Maryland fee-for-service (FFS) Preferred Drug List effective July 1, 2016

NOTE: Please ensure that appropriate staff members in your organizations are informed of the contents of this transmittal.

Dear Maryland Medicaid Provider:

You are receiving this letter because, in the last 12 months, you had prescribed Suboxone[®] Film for one or more of your Maryland Medicaid patients.

Starting July 1, 2016, Maryland Medicaid will make Zubsolv[®] sublingual tablets preferred on our Preferred Drug List (PDL), whereas the Suboxone[®] Film will become non-preferred. This will result in denial of prescriptions for Suboxone[®] Film and require a prior authorization by the prescriber. In order for your patients to have a smooth transition, we are requesting that if you currently have patients on the Suboxone[®] Film who may need to refill their prescriptions on or any time after July 1, to consider prescribing the Zubsolv[®] sublingual tablets to avoid any future denial of the prescription due to the FFS PDL prior authorization requirement. Alternatively, you may obtain a PA for the non-preferred agent by calling 800-932-3918 or submitting a completed PA form via fax to 888-440-9345.

Whereas there is not a published conversion from Suboxone[®] Film to Zubsolv[®] sublingual tablets, it is generally accepted that, clinically, the Suboxone[®] Film can be interchanged with the generic Suboxone[®] (buprenorphine/naloxone) sublingual tablets.

Please note that the differences in bioavailability of Zubsolv[®] compared to Suboxone[®] 1 tablet requires that different tablet strengths be given to the patient. One Zubsolv[®] 5.7 mg/1.4 mg sublingual tablet provides equivalent buprenorphine exposure to one Suboxone[®] 8 mg/2 mg sublingual tablet. When switching between Suboxone[®] dosage strengths and Zubsolv[®] dosage strengths, the corresponding dosage strengths are:

¹ Brand Suboxone[®] sublingual tablets are not available in the market place.

Suboxone® sublingual tablets, including generic equivalents	Corresponding dosage strength of Zubsolv® sublingual tablets
One 2 mg/0.5 mg buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual tablet	One 1.4 mg/0.36 mg Zubsolv® sublingual tablet
4 mg/1 mg buprenorphine/naloxone taken as: • Two 2 mg/0.5 mg sublingual buprenorphine/naloxone tablets	One 2.9 mg/0.71 mg Zubsolv® sublingual tablet
One 8 mg/2 mg buprenorphine/naloxone sublingual tablet	One 5.7 mg/1.4 mg ZubsolvV® sublingual tablet
12 mg/3 mg buprenorphine/naloxone, taken as: • One 8 mg/2 mg sublingual buprenorphine/naloxone tablet AND • Two 2 mg/0.5 mg sublingual buprenorphine/naloxone tablets	One 8.6 mg/2.1 mg Zubsolv® sublingual tablet
16 mg/4 mg buprenorphine/naloxone, taken as: • Two 8 mg/2 mg sublingual buprenorphine/naloxone tablets	One 11.4 mg/2.9 mg Zubsolv® sublingual tablet

Due to individual variability, patients should be monitored for symptoms related to over-dosing or under-dosing.

If you have any questions, call 800-492-5231 (select option 3).