



State of New Jersey
Department of Human Services
Division of Medical Assistance & Health Services

NEWSLETTER

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TO: Independent Clinics, Physicians, Advanced Practice Nurses and Managed Care Organizations – **For Action**

SUBJECT: Office Based Addiction Treatment (OBAT) Update- Enrollment of OBAT Navigators as Servicing Providers

EFFECTIVE: March 15, 2020

PURPOSE: The OBAT program is designed to enhance access and improve utilization of non-methadone Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT) services for Medicaid beneficiaries by establishing additional supports and reducing administrative barriers for office-based providers providing these addiction services. Navigators are responsible for assessing patients, and based on the needs identified, assisting patients to connect with community resources and counseling as needed.

BACKGROUND: In order to qualify for enhanced payment rates, an OBAT provider must employ a navigator. The role of the navigator is to assess patients with substance use disorder (SUD) for psychosocial needs that may contribute to their substance abuse. Navigators are intended to help individuals to connect with SUD counseling, employment programs or any other social determinants of health that have been identified. “Navigator” services, an essential component of OBAT, are designed to reimburse provider practices for addressing the patient’s psychosocial concerns and coordination of care. Navigator services are considered necessary to ensure successful treatment outcomes. While the navigator works within the provider practice, they are encouraged to work with individuals outside of the provider interaction to address any non-medical factors related to SUD. If a patient refuses navigator services and only wants MAT, the physician or APN may still receive the enhanced E/M rates. Navigator services need only be available to patients.

ACTION: In order for current providers to bill for these services, the navigator must be added to the provider group. This can be accomplished by completing a navigator addendum. New providers will include the required information for the navigator as part of the full application. Applications and addendums can be found under “provider applications” on www.njmmis.com. The addendum will give providers the opportunity to enter the earliest date that navigator services were provided to allow retroactive billing for these services.

In order to complete the application or addendum the navigator will need to obtain a national provider identifier (NPI) number. This can be accomplished by applying online

at <https://nppes.cms.hhs.gov> or by calling 1-800-465-3203 and requesting a paper application (form CMS-10114). The navigator's NPI will be listed as the servicing provider on all claims for navigator services including H0006HFHG, H0006 HFSU or H0006HF.

Recognizing that navigator services are new to most privately practicing providers, the State is providing periodic full day training sessions at no cost. Providers interested in this training can call the State's Office of Behavioral Health at 609-631-4641 for more information.

Outside of the physician intake visit (required to establish a need for MAT services), billing for navigator services does not require the individual to be seen by the physician or APN on the same date of service. However, they must have at least one face-to-face encounter with the navigator during each time unit (weekly or monthly) that is billed. While the provider does not need to see the beneficiary on the same date of service, the provider should see the patient at least monthly to demonstrate the individual is still receiving MAT services. If the navigator services are billed without a required office visit, the navigator claim will pend until the visit is billed.

Prior Authorization

Effective April 1, 2019, prior authorization (PA) requirements were removed for medications and/or bundled services that include administering medication for the treatment of opioid or alcohol use disorders. Safety edits, only those approved by the New Jersey Division of Medical Assistance and Health Services, shall apply.

Effective April 1, 2020, With the exception of DMAHS-defined safety edits, MCOs shall provide coverage for all generic MAT medications, regardless of dosage form, for up to thirty-two (32) milligrams per day for oral/sublingual buprenorphine.

Providers

In order for a provider to qualify as an OBAT provider, providers must be DATA 2000 waived to prescribe Buprenorphine. Those who are not yet waived can take advantage of Division of Mental Health and Addiction Services (DMHAS) training opportunities and are encouraged to become DATA 2000 waived providers and participate in this new model of care. DATA 2000 waived providers can also take advantage of available support and mentorship provided by our Centers of Excellence (COEs).

Once the provider meets the established standards and is properly waived, the provider **must** offer "navigator" services in order to receive the additional reimbursement. Navigators can be any licensed individual such as an RN, LPN, or SW; or an individual with a Baccalaureate degree with 2 years clinical (office) or lived experience; or, an individual with an associate degree or a certified medical assistant with 4 years clinical (office) or lived experience. Navigators may meet with the patient

independently or with the provider present, but provide a separately reimbursable service that functions primarily to address the psychosocial needs of the patient with a SUD. The position may share other duties depending on the size of the provider's population being treated.

If there are any questions regarding the information shared in this Newsletter, please contact the Office of Customer Service at 609-631-4641.

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