



AETNA BETTER HEALTH® OF VIRGINIA

New Guidance on Opioid Management for Medicaid Members

Dear Aetna Better Health of Virginia Providers:

In accordance with the Virginia Acts of Assembly, the Code of Virginia has been amended to include the following, effective **July 1, 2022**:

A. No provider licensed pursuant to this chapter, regardless of whether the provider participates in the state plan for medical assistance, shall request or require a patient who is a recipient of medical assistance services pursuant to the state plan for medical assistance and who is a recipient of health care services involving (i) the prescription of an opioid for the management of pain or (ii) the prescription of buprenorphine-containing products, methadone, or other opioid replacements approved for the treatment of opioid addiction by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration for medication-assisted treatment of opioid addiction to pay costs associated with the provision of such service out-of-pocket. The prohibition on payment of costs shall not apply to a recipient's cost-sharing amounts required by the state plan for medical assistance.

B. Every provider who does not accept payment from the Department of Medical Assistance Services for health care services who intends to provide health care services described in subsection A to a patient who is a recipient of medical assistance services pursuant to the state plan for medical assistance shall, prior to providing such health care services, provide written notice to such patient that (i) the Commonwealth's program of medical assistance services covers the health care services described in subsection A and the Department of Medical Assistance Services will pay for such health care services if such health care services are determined to meet the Department of Medical Assistance Service's medical necessity criteria and (ii) the provider does not participate in the Commonwealth's program of medical assistance and will not accept payment from the Department of Medical Assistance Services for such health care services. Such notice and the patient's acknowledgment of such notice shall be documented in the patient's medical record and does not exempt the provider from the requirements of subsection A.

If you have any questions, please call Provider Services at **1-800-279-1878** (TTY: **711**).

Utilization Management
Aetna Better Health of Virginia