



PREFERRED DRUG LIST UPDATES

Integrated (Title 19/21 SMI) and ACC, DD, ALTCS and DCS CHP

Additions:

- Diclofenac Gel Over the counter (OTC) 1% (Quantity Limit)

Removals:

- None

Other Updates

- None

Behavioral Health (Title 19/21 Non-SMI & Non-Title 19/21)

Additions:

- None

Removals:

- None

Other Updates

- None

** Drugs that are not on the formulary may be available via PA (prior authorization) **

- For the complete preferred drug lists, please refer to the Mercy Care websites below
 - RBHA: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/rbha-forproviders/pharmacy>
 - [Behavioral Health Preferred Drug List](#): For members who qualify under Non-Title 19/21 determined to have a serious mental illness (SMI) or Non-Title 19/21 children/adolescents with a serious emotional disturbance (SED), Mercy Care RBHA fills only behavioral health medications.
 - [Integrated Preferred Drug List](#): For Title 19/21 SMI members, Mercy Care RBHA fills physical health and behavioral health medications.
 - [Crisis Medication List](#): For adults or children who are Non-Title 19/21 and Non-SMI who present in crisis at any of the facility-based psychiatric urgent care centers, detox facilities and/or access point in Maricopa County. The medications on this list will help stabilize an individual in crisis and bridge them to a follow-up outpatient appointment.
 - ACC, DD, ALTCS and DCS CHP: <https://www.mercycareaz.org/providers/complecare-forproviders/pharmacy>

FDA Warns About Dental Problems with Buprenorphine Medicines Dissolved in the Mouth to Treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) and Pain

On January 12, 2022 the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) warned that dental problems have been reported with medicines containing buprenorphine that are dissolved in the mouth. The dental problems, including tooth decay, cavities, oral infections, and loss of teeth, can be serious and have been reported even in patients with no history of dental issues. Despite these risks, buprenorphine is an important treatment option for opioid use disorder (OUD) and pain, and the benefits of these medicines clearly outweigh the risks.

Regular adherence to buprenorphine to treat OUD reduces withdrawal symptoms and the desire to use opioids, without causing the cycle of highs and lows associated with opioid misuse. The comprehensive approach of buprenorphine combined with counseling and other behavioral therapies is often one of the most effective ways to treat OUD. This approach, called [medication-assisted treatment](#) (MAT), is tailored to meet each patient's needs and can help sustain recovery and prevent or reduce opioid overdose. According to the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA), MAT has been shown to be effective in improving patient survival, decreasing opioid use, and allowing patients to live a self-directed life, including the ability to gain and maintain employment.

The FDA is requiring a new warning about the risk of dental problems be added to the prescribing information and the patient Medication Guide for all buprenorphine-containing medicines dissolved in the mouth. The prescribing and patient information will also include strategies to maintain or improve oral health while undergoing treatment with these medicines. These strategies will include recommending that prescribers refer patients to dental care services and encourage them to have regular checkups while taking these products.

Principles of Adolescent Substance Use Disorder Treatment: A Research-Based Guide

1. Adolescent substance use needs to be identified and addressed as soon as possible.
2. Adolescents can benefit from a drug abuse intervention even if they are not addicted to a drug.
3. Routine annual medical visits are an opportunity to ask adolescents about drug use.
4. Legal interventions and sanctions or family pressure may play an important role in getting adolescents to enter, stay in, and complete treatment.
5. Substance use disorder treatment should be tailored to the unique needs of the adolescent.
6. Treatment should address the needs of the whole person, rather than just focusing on drug use.
7. Behavioral therapies are effective in addressing adolescent drug use.
8. Families and the community are important aspects of treatment.
9. Effectively treating substance use disorders in adolescents requires also identifying and treating any other mental health conditions they may have.
10. Sensitive issues such as violence and child abuse or risk of suicide should be identified and addressed.
11. It is important to monitor drug use during treatment.
12. Staying in treatment for an adequate duration and continuity of care afterward are important.
13. Testing adolescents for sexually transmitted diseases like HIV, as well as hepatitis B and C, is an important part of drug treatment.

Reminder for quicker determinations of a Prior Authorization use the ePA link for Our Providers: Please click [here to initiate an electronic prior authorization \(ePA\)](#) request

References:

1. <https://www.drugs.com/fda/fda-warns-dental-problems-buprenorphine-medicines-dissolved-mouth-opioid-disorder-pain-14501.html>
2. <https://www.samhsa.gov/medication-assisted-treatment>
3. <https://nida.nih.gov/publications/principles-adolescent-substance-use-disorder-treatment-research-based-guide/principles-adolescent-substance-use-disorder-treatment>

This newsletter is brought to you by the Mercy Care Pharmacy Team. For questions, please email Fanny A Musto (MustoF@mercycares.org), Denise Volkov (VolkovD@mercycares.org) or Trennette Gilbert (gilbert@mercycares.org)