



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency  
Department of Health Care Services



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNOR

DATE: October 25, 2018

MHSUDS INFORMATION NOTICE NO.: 18-052

TO: COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS  
COUNTY DRUG & ALCOHOL ADMINISTRATORS  
COUNTY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH DIRECTORS ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA  
CALIFORNIA COUNCIL OF COMMUNITY BEHAVIORAL HEALTH AGENCIES  
COALITION OF ALCOHOL AND DRUG ASSOCIATIONS  
CALIFORNIA ASSOCIATION OF ALCOHOL & DRUG PROGRAM EXECUTIVES, INC.  
CALIFORNIA ALLIANCE OF CHILD AND FAMILY SERVICES  
CALIFORNIA OPIOID MAINTENANCE PROVIDERS  
CALIFORNIA STATE ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES  
DIRECT PROVIDERS

SUBJECT: DELAY IN SHORT-DOYLE CLAIMS PROCESSING FOR BUPRENORPHINE-NALOXONE UNDER THE DRUG MEDI-CAL ORGANIZED DELIVERY SYSTEM

### **PURPOSE**

The purpose of this Information Notice is to notify Drug Medi-Cal Organized Delivery System (DMC-ODS) pilot counties of a delay in processing claims for Buprenorphine-Naloxone in the Short-Doyle/Medi-Cal II (SDMC II) system.

### **DISCUSSION**

Under DMC-ODS, Narcotic Treatment Programs participating in the DMC-ODS pilot program are required to have available the following medications: Methadone, Buprenorphine, Disulfiram, and Naloxone. Effective July 1, 2018, Buprenorphine medication was unbundled into two different products, Buprenorphine-Mono and Buprenorphine-Naloxone. The DMC reimbursement rates for these medications are set forth in [MHSUDS Information Notice 18-036](#).

At this time, the SDMC II system is unable to differentiate between Buprenorphine-Mono and the Buprenorphine-Naloxone combination product. As a result, claims for the

combination product provided to beneficiaries as of July 1, 2018, are being reimbursed at the rate for Buprenorphine-Mono.

The Department of Health Care Services (DHCS) Short-Doyle Enterprise Innovation and Technology Services is working on a solution for this issue and changes are expected to be implemented by early 2019. DMC-ODS counties have two options with regard to submitting Buprenorphine-Naloxone claims:

- 1) DMC-ODS counties may submit claims for Buprenorphine-Naloxone and be reimbursed at the lower, Buprenorphine-Mono rate. DHCS will allow claims to be replaced and reimbursed at the correct rate once the SDMC II system has been updated.
- 2) DMC-ODS counties may delay submitting claims for Buprenorphine-Naloxone until the SDMC II system is updated. At that time, counties may request a delay reason code (if necessary) for original claims not submitted.

For planning purposes, DHCS requests that counties contact their assigned analysts in the Fiscal Management and Accountability Section (FMAS) if this issue will impact their claims submission.

The FMAS analyst is available to answer questions on this notice, and will inform DMC-ODS counties once the Buprenorphine-Naloxone combination product has been updated in SDMC II.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Brenda Grealish, Acting Deputy Director  
Mental Health & Substance Use Disorder Services