

MEMO

To: All BESMART Providers
 From: Victor Wu, MD, MPH
 Chief Medical Officer, TennCare
 Date: April 11, 2025

Subject: Updates to BESMART Buprenorphine Prior Authorization Process

The Division of TennCare and its Managed Care Contractors (MCCs) would like to inform you of changes to the buprenorphine prescription benefit for TennCare members. These system and procedural changes impact prior authorization requirements for providers who participate in the Buprenorphine Enhanced Supportive Medication Assisted Recovery and Treatment (BESMART) provider network. These changes to prior authorization processes became effective on 3/1/2025 and were discussed in a BESMART Provider Webinar entitled "Buprenorphine Update for BESMART Providers" on 3/27/2025.

For all BESMART physicians who prescribe preferred buprenorphine/naloxone products to TennCare members:

- Prior Authorization (PA) will no longer be required for 17 to 24 mg daily dosages

For all BESMART providers with authority* to prescribe buprenorphine monoproduct to TennCare members:

- The following ICD-10 codes will allow pregnant or breastfeeding patients with opioid use disorder to receive up to 24 mg/day of buprenorphine monoproduct without Prior Authorization
- ICD-10 code must be written on hardcopy prescriptions or submitted with e-prescribed prescriptions
- Note that per TN state law, Nurse Practitioners and Physician Assistants cannot prescribe buprenorphine-containing products at doses greater than 16mg

Diagnosis/Description	ICD-10 Code
Supervision of other high risk pregnancies, first trimester	O09.891
Supervision of other high risk pregnancies, second trimester	O09.892
Supervision of other high risk pregnancies, third trimester	O09.893
Supervision of other high risk pregnancies, unsp trimester	O09.899
Supervision of high risk pregnancy, unsp, unsp trimester	O09.90
Supervision of high risk pregnancy, unsp, first trimester	O09.91
Supervision of high risk pregnancy, unsp, second trimester	O09.92
Supervision of high risk pregnancy, unsp, third trimester	O09.93
Encounter for care and examination of lactating mother	Z39.1
Other disorders of lactation	O92.79

**Tennessee Code, Tennessee Nonresidential Buprenorphine Treatment Guidelines, and TennCare Rules continue to govern all buprenorphine prescriptions. BESMART providers will be required to re-attest to their understanding of all above documents in light of these changes in the prior authorization process. BESMART Providers will be contacted by each MCC(s) they are contracted with to complete the re-attestation process for that MCC.*

MEMO

TennCare prescribers who are not part of the BESMART network will remain subject to the existing PA criteria. The buprenorphine Prior Authorization form can be accessed at:

[Prior Authorization Form for Buprenorphine Products](#)

For clinical questions including PAs and quantity limits, contact OptumRx at 1-866-434-5524. For customer service including pharmacy coverage, contact OptumRx at 1-866-434-5520.

To learn more about the BESMART provider network, contact your respective TennCare Managed Care Organization:

- BlueCare Tennessee: MAT_Referral_CM_UM@bcbst.com
- UnitedHealthcare Community Plan: SE_Government_Programs@uhc.com
- Wellpoint: WLPBESMART@wellpoint.com