MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID
BENEFICIARY GUIDE SHEET

IMPORTANT CHANGES IN MISSISSIPPI DIVISION OF MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR SUBOXONE/SUBUTEX THERAPY WHEN TREATING OPIOID DEPENDENCE

Starting September 1, 2012, Mississippi Medicaid changed the coverage for Suboxone®/Subutex® therapy. This letter describes the new policies.

General Guidelines

- Suboxone®/Subutex® therapy will be approved only for treating opioid dependence.
- Subutex® can only be approved during pregnancy.
- A beneficiary will only be covered for a total of **24 months** of therapy with Suboxone®/Subutex®. Even when treated by different doctors.
- Going without medication for 60 days or more will require the beneficiary to **restart** treatment.
- A beneficiary will be allowed **only one restart** of treatment.
- Over time doses must be reduced in order to help the beneficiary quit being dependent on medication. Medicaid will only pay for the maximum daily dose allowed for each step in therapy. You should discuss with your doctor the right dose for each step in therapy.

Opiate Use Restrictions

Beneficiaries being treated for opioid dependence should not be taking medications containing opiates. At times, such as major surgery, pain medications might be needed. Use of opiate medications during Suboxone®/Subutex® therapy will have the following restrictions.

- Beneficiaries cannot get a prescription for more than 5 days of an opiate while on Suboxone®/Subutex® therapy.
- Beneficiaries cannot get a Suboxone®/Subutex® refill if they have gotten a prescription for more than 5 days of an opiate in the last 30 days.
- Beneficiaries cannot have more than a total of 10 days of opiate therapy during the time on Suboxone®/Subutex® therapy. If this happens, beneficiary will no longer be eligible for Suboxone®/Subutex® coverage.

It is important that beneficiaries on Suboxone®/Subutex® have pain medication written only by the doctor who writes their Suboxone®/Subutex®. When this is not possible, beneficiaries should be sure to tell the other doctor they are taking Suboxone®/Subutex® to avoid problems with coverage.

Things Beneficiaries Should Do To Succeed in Therapy

- Work with the doctor to select the right treatment plan.
- Follow the treatment plan.
- Attend counseling sessions as directed by doctor.
- Report all other medications to the doctor.
- Do not take opiates without first checking with the doctor.