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**Medication-Assisted Treatment
and
Physicians Services
Medicaid State Plan Amendments
effective October 1, 2020**

Effective October 1, 2020, the Montana Department of Public Health and Human Services (DPHHS) is submitting two Medicaid State Plan Amendments (SPAs) related to medication-assisted treatment (MAT) for opioid use disorders (OUD). Due to the almost exclusive focus that states have had to give to responding to the COVID-19 pandemic throughout much of 2020, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) is allowing Montana to submit the new mandatory SPA on or before March 31, 2021, as long as public notice has been published, and tribal consultation initiated on or before February 28, 2021.

Section 1006(b) of the SUPPORT Act requires states to provide mandatory Medicaid coverage of certain drugs and biological products, and related counseling services and behavioral therapy for all eligible to enroll in the state plan or waiver of state plan. The new required benefit will be in effect for the period beginning October 1, 2020, and ending September 30, 2025. Mandatory coverage includes all forms of drugs and biologicals that the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has approved or licensed for MAT to treat OUD. Currently, the FDA has approved the following drugs used for MAT to treat OUD: methadone, buprenorphine, and naltrexone.

In addition to submitting a coverage SPA to add the mandatory MAT benefit to the Medicaid State Plan, Montana will submit a new Attachment 4.19-B page that describes the rate-setting methodology used to pay for the services covered under the mandatory MAT benefit.

Because Montana currently covers MAT services within the Physicians Services State Plan, DPHHS is submitting a Physicians SPA to move coverage to the new mandatory benefit SPA.

Both MAT and Physicians SPAs are budget neutral.

We invite your public comments and questions postmarked **through February 16, 2021**. You may direct comments to Mary Eve Kulawik, Medicaid State Plan Amendment and Waiver Coordinator, at (406) 444-2584 or mkulawik@mt.gov; or Director's Office, PO Box 4210, Helena MT 59604-4210.