



NC DEPARTMENT OF
**HEALTH AND
HUMAN SERVICES**

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LME/MCO Joint Communication Bulletin # J422

DATE: July 6, 2022

TO: Local Management Entities/Managed Care Organizations (LME/MCOs)

FROM: Deb Goda, Associate Director, Behavioral Health and I/DD, NC Medicaid
Renee Rader, Interim Deputy Director/Chief Operating Officer, DMH/DD/SAS

SUBJECT: **Extension of COVID-19 Flexibility for Opioid Treatment Programs (OTP) Take-Home Dosing**

This bulletin provides an update on the OTP Take-Home dosing COVID-19 flexibility extension based on the exemption from the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA). With this exemption, the Division of Health Benefits (DHB) will allow for the following provision and billing for Take-Home doses provided by OTPs until July 15, 2022:

- Stable patients in an OTP may receive 28 days of take-home doses of the patient's medication for opioid use disorder.
- Up to 14 days of take-home medication for those patients who are less stable but who the OTP believes can safely handle this level of Take-Home medication.

It remains within the OTP provider's discretion to determine the number of take-home doses within each category of 'stable' or 'less stable'. The provider is still responsible for determining the amount of take-home doses that an individual can safely manage. This decision-making and discussions must be documented in the individual's medical record consistent with 42 C.F.R. § 8.12(i)(3).

Further guidance will be forthcoming regarding the possibility of extending this exemption. If you have any questions, please contact Howard Anthony at 919-741-3129 or Howard.Anthony@dhhs.nc.gov.

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