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**To:** All Medicare Providers  
**From:** IEHP - Pharmaceutical Services  
**Date:** March 10, 2023  
**Subject: Opioid Attestation for Coverage Determinations and Removal of X-Waiver**

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Dear IEHP Provider,

We have important information about our IEHP Medicare Dual Choice D-SNP Members needing Coverage Determination (Medicare Prior Authorization) requests for opioid therapy and the removal of DATA-Waiver (X-Waiver) Requirement.

### **1. Opioid Attestation for Medicare Coverage Determinations**

**To avoid delays in Member care**, it is important that you **submit to MedImpact your opioid attestation** with your Medicare Coverage Determination (Prior Authorization) requests for Members with:

- Opioid-benzodiazepine concurrent use
- Opioid-buprenorphine concurrent use
- High opioid cumulative dose
- Long-acting duplicative opioid therapy
- Opioid-naïve needing more than a 7-day supply

**IEHP Opioid Policy Guidelines require the attestation once annually to include medically necessary information to properly review your Coverage Determination request.**

Submit your opioid attestation in your Coverage Determination requests via the following options:

- Fax forms to **(858) 790-7100**
- Forms are available at MedImpact website: <https://www.medimpact.com/prior-authorization-forms>.
- Call MedImpact Customer Contact Center at **(800) 788-2949**

## **2. Removal of DATA-Waiver (X-WAIVER) Requirement**

Please read the article below with updates on **buprenorphine**, published January 20, 2023:



On January 12, 2023, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) confirmed in a [letter to registrants](#) that Section 1262 of the [Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023](#) eliminated the DATA-Waiver Program. Effective immediately, waiver applications will no longer be accepted.

All prescriptions for buprenorphine will now only require a standard DEA registration number. The previously used DATA-Waiver (also known as X-Waiver) registration numbers are no longer needed for any prescription. Any practitioner with a current DEA registration that includes Schedule III authority may now prescribe buprenorphine for Opioid Use Disorder (OUD) in their practice. There are no longer any limits on the number of patients a prescriber may treat for OUD with buprenorphine.

The DEA also noted that new training requirements will go into effect on June 21, 2023, for all prescribers of controlled substances. New requirements include the completion of an eight-hour training on identifying and treating addiction when a practitioner applies for or renews their DEA registration to prescribe controlled substances.

For additional information on the removal of the DATA-Waiver requirement, see the [statement](#) issued by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) website.

For more information on the buprenorphine waiver, contact the **SAMHSA Center for Substance Abuse Treatment (CSAT)** at 866-BUP-CSAT (866-287-2728) or [infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov](mailto:infobuprenorphine@samhsa.hhs.gov).

Sincerely,

IEHP Pharmaceutical Services