



Paul R. LePage, Governor

Mary C. Mayhew, Commissioner

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To: MaineCare Member  
From: Stefanie Nadeau, Director, Office of MaineCare Services

Date: July 20, 2012

Dear MaineCare Member:

Some MaineCare services will be reduced or changed. These changes are part of the Department of Health and Human Services' Supplemental Budgets and Administrative Savings Initiatives that were signed by Governor LePage. See Public Law 2011, c. 477 and c. 657.

**MaineCare Service Reductions and Changes are listed below:**

***MaineCare Benefits Manual (MCBM) Section 4: Ambulatory Surgical Center Services***

Ambulatory Surgical Center (ASC) services will no longer be reimbursed by MaineCare. These centers commonly provide outpatient surgery services that do not require an overnight hospital stay. Although you will not be able to get services at ASCs, you may still be able to get the services in another setting. Talk with your doctor to see where you can get these services if you need them.

This change will start on September 1, 2012.

***MCBM Section 60: Durable Medical Equipment (DME)***

MaineCare members will not be able to get some DME supplies at medical supply stores. These include diabetic supplies such as: lancets, lancet device, syringes/needles, monitor devices, and test strips. You will need to get these supplies at a retail pharmacy.

MaineCare will not cover these DME supplies at medical supply stores starting on September 1, 2012.

## **Reduction in opioid coverage**

The use of opioids (e.g. oxycodone, hydrocodone, fentanyl) for pain will have new restrictions. Although pain medications will have new limits, additional services will be covered by MaineCare for the treatment of pain. One new option for treatment of chronic pain is up to six Physical Therapy treatments. If you are currently taking opioid medications, work with your doctor to see what other services might help with your chronic pain. New limits could include things such as requiring a second medical opinion or requiring, when appropriate, that you try other treatments.

The new limits on opioid use for individuals who are new to taking opioid medications will start on September 1, 2012. The limit to the maximum opioid dose for individuals currently taking opioid medications will start on January 1, 2013.

If you are newly diagnosed with chronic pain after September 1, 2012, work with your doctor on your pain treatment plan. Your treatment plan should include services to help treat your pain and limit your need for opioid medication.

The new limits will not apply to certain types of conditions. For example, those with HIV/AIDS, cancer, or other conditions will not have any new limits. Also, those who are in a hospital or in hospice care will not have new limits.

If you have Medicare and MaineCare (dual coverage), the new limits may not apply to you. You can call the Area Agency on Aging to see if you are affected by this change. The phone number for the Area Agency on Aging is 1-877-353-3771.

**Important:** In all cases, the limits will not apply if it is “medically necessary” for you to continue to get the opioid treatment.

## **Methadone and suboxone**

Methadone and suboxone are used for the treatment of opioid addiction. If you need either of these drugs for more than 24 months in your lifetime, then you will need to get Prior Authorization (PA). To get a PA, you and your doctor will need to show that it is “medically necessary” for you to continue with these drugs.

The new methadone and suboxone policy starts on January 1, 2013.

If you first start getting methadone or suboxone treatment after January 1, 2013, you should work with your doctor on a treatment plan to try to limit your use of these medications to 24 months or less. If you are currently prescribed methadone or suboxone for opioid addiction, you and your doctor should plan how you may be able to transition off the treatment.

**Important:** If it is “medically necessary” for you to continue with these drugs after 24 months, then you may be able to get Prior Authorization to continue beyond 24 months.

If you have Medicare and MaineCare (dual coverage), this change may not affect you. You can call the Area Agency on Aging to see if you are affected by this change. The phone number is for the Area Agency on Aging is 1-877-353-3771.

## **Smoking cessation**

Smoking cessation products will no longer be covered by MaineCare except for pregnant women. Pregnant women will still be able to get smoking cessation products covered by MaineCare.

This change starts on September 1, 2012.

The Maine Tobacco Helpline may be able to help you. The helpline provides support services to help you quit smoking. If you qualify, they will talk about using a nicotine patch, lozenge, or gum as part of their Medication Program. You can call the Maine Tobacco Helpline at 1-800-207-1230.

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## ***MCBM Section 150: STD Screening Clinic Services***

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### **Sexually Transmitted Disease (STD) Screening Clinics**

STD screening at STD Screening Clinics will no longer be covered by MaineCare. MaineCare will still cover STD screening services, but not at STD Screening Clinics. Talk with your doctor to see where you can get STD screening services if you need them.

This change will start on September 1, 2012.

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***No Appeal Rights:*** MaineCare members do not have the right to appeal these reductions in MaineCare services or to request a hearing because the MaineCare Benefits Manual (MCBM) is being amended by rulemaking to reduce these services. However, the rulemaking process does allow for public comment. A public hearing will be scheduled when the rule is proposed. If you are interested in attending a public hearing or submitting a comment regarding these changes, you can check <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/rules/proposed.shtml> periodically to see when the hearing is scheduled.

These changes are required as part of the Department of Health and Human Services’ Supplemental Budgets, which were signed by Governor LePage on February 23, 2012 and May 16, 2012. Public Law 2011, Chapter 477, Chapter 657, LD 1816, LD 1746 125th Maine State Legislature.

If you have questions, please contact Member Services at 1-800-977-6740. The TTY number is: 1-800-977-6741.

You can also find MaineCare rules at: <http://www.maine.gov/dhhs/oms/rules/proposed.shtml>