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State/Territory Name: North Carolina

State Plan Amendment (SPA): 20-0003

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- 1) Approval Letter
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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
7500 Security Boulevard, Mail Stop S2-14-26
Baltimore, Maryland 21244-1850



Center for Medicaid and CHIP Services

Disabled and Elderly Health Programs Group

March 2, 2020

Mandy Cohen, MD, MPH
Office of the Secretary
Department of Health & Human Services
Raleigh, NC 27699-20014

Dear Ms. Cohen:

The CMS Division of Pharmacy team has reviewed North Carolina's State Plan Amendment (SPA) 20-0003 received in the Atlanta Regional Operations Group on January 27, 2020. This SPA proposes to allow the state to comply with the Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) provisions included in Section 1004 of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act (P.L. 115-271).

Based on the information provided and consistent with the regulations at 42 CFR 430.20, we are pleased to inform you that SPA 20-0003 is approved with an effective date of January 1, 2020. A copy of the signed CMS-179 form, as well as the pages approved for incorporation into North Carolina's state plan will be forwarded by the Atlanta Regional Operations Group.

If you have any questions regarding this amendment, please contact Charlotte Amponsah at (410) 786-1092 or charlotte.amponsah@cms.hhs.gov

Sincerely,

/s/

Cynthia R. Denemark, R.Ph.,
Deputy Director
Division of Pharmacy

cc: Katie Holt, CMS Division of Program Operations-Branch Manager
Charles Friedrich, CMS Division of Program Operations – SPA Analyst-South Branch
Arthur Becton, NC Medicaid SPA Coordinator
Betty Jenkins, NC Medicaid SPA Manager

MEDICAL ASSISTANCE
State: NORTH CAROLINA

DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW PROGRAM

- Citation
1902(a)(85) and Section 1004 of the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities Act (SUPPORT Act)
- K. The Medicaid agency meets the requirements of Section 1004 of the SUPPORT Act as set forth in section 1902(a)(85) of the Social Security Act as follows:
1. Claims Review Limitations
 - a. Prospective safety edits on opioid prescriptions to address days' supply, early refills, duplicate fills and quantity limitations for clinical appropriateness.
 - b. Prospective safety edits on maximum daily morphine milligram equivalents (MME) on opioid prescriptions to limit the daily morphine milligram equivalent (as recommended by clinical guidelines).
 - c. Retrospective reviews on opioid prescriptions exceeding these above limitations on an ongoing basis.
 - d. Retrospective reviews on concurrent utilization of opioids and benzodiazepines as well as opioids and antipsychotics on an ongoing periodic basis.
 2. Program to monitor antipsychotic medications to children. Antipsychotic agents are reviewed for appropriateness for all children including foster children based on approved indications and clinical guidelines.
 3. Fraud and abuse identification. The DUR program has established a process that identifies potential fraud or abuse of controlled substances by enrolled individuals, health care providers and pharmacies.
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TN No. 20-0003
Supersedes
TN No. NEW

Approval Date:
3/02/2020

Eff. Date 01/01/20