



State of California—Health and Human Services Agency
Department of Health Care Services



GAVIN NEWSOM
GOVERNOR

DATE: November 25, 2020

Behavioral Health Information Notice No:20-064

TO: California Alliance of Child and Family Services
California Association for Alcohol/Drug Educators
California Association of Alcohol & Drug Program Executives, Inc.
California Association of DUI Treatment Programs
California Association of Social Rehabilitation Agencies
California Consortium of Addiction Programs and Professionals
California Council of Community Behavioral Health Agencies
California Hospital Association
California Opioid Maintenance Providers
California State Association of Counties
Coalition of Alcohol and Drug Associations
County Behavioral Health Directors
County Behavioral Health Directors Association of California
County Drug & Alcohol Administrators

SUBJECT: Multiple National Drug Codes (NDC) for the Same Medication
Administered on the Same Day in Narcotic Treatment Programs
(NTPs)

PURPOSE: To notify DMC-ODS counties and NTP providers of changes to the
Short-Doyle Medi-Cal (SDMC) claiming system allowing more than one
NDC for the same medication provided on the same day

REFERENCE: [MHSUDS Information Notice No: 19-033](#)

Executive Summary:

A provider may need to use more than one NDC to properly report the dose of a particular medication provided to a beneficiary on the same day for MAT services provided in a Narcotic Treatment Program (NTP). Prior to April 9, 2019, the SDMC claiming system allowed only one NDC to be reported per day per medication used in MAT services. DHCS implemented changes to the SDMC claiming system on April 9, 2019, to allow a provider to report more than one NDC per day per medication used in MAT services.

Background:

DHCS reimburses DMC-ODS counties for the cost to administer doses of buprenorphine, disulfiram, naloxone, and buprenorphine combo to treat a substance use disorder in an NTP. Federal regulations prohibit states from receiving federal reimbursement for claims submitted for physician-administered drugs when the claim does not include the NDC for the drug administered.¹ The SDMC claiming system requires a claim submitted for MAT services provided in an NTP to include an NDC or it is denied.

The NDCs are unique numbers that identify specific drugs. The unique number contains three segments that include a labeler code, product code, and trade package size code. The labeler code identifies the manufacturer or distributor. The product code identifies a specific strength, dosage form, and formulation of the drug. The trade package size code identifies package size and types. As a result, there are multiple NDCs to identify specific drugs within a general group. For example, there are twelve NDCs to identify specific Buprenorphine products.

Providers may administer a dose of buprenorphine, disulfiram, naloxone, or buprenorphine combo requiring more than one NDC to accurately report the dose administered. For example, buprenorphine NDC codes identify a dose of either two or eight milligrams. A physician who administers 10 milligrams of buprenorphine would need to report an NDC for the two milligram tablet and an NDC for the eight milligram tablet. Additionally, beneficiaries receive a follow up visit with a physician when starting on buprenorphine. During that follow up visit, the physician may decide the initial dose was not sufficient and administer a higher dose. For example, a physician may administer an eight milligram tablet during the first visit and administer an additional 2 milligram tablet during the follow up visit. The physician would need to report the NDC for both the eight milligram tablet and the two milligram tablet.

Prior to April 9, 2019, the SDMC claiming system did not allow DMC-ODS counties to report multiple service lines within the claim for the same medication administered to the same beneficiary by the same provider on the same day. If a DMC-ODS county submitted one claim for each NDC, the SDMC claiming system would have approved the first claim and denied all subsequent claims. This prevented DMC-ODS counties from properly reporting the dosage administered to the beneficiary on any given day.

¹ Title 42, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 447, Section 520.

SDMC System Change:

On April 9, 2019, DHCS deployed a change to the SDMC claiming system that allows DMC-ODS counties to submit claims with multiple NDCs for the same medication administered to the same beneficiary by the same provider on the same day. When submitting a claim with multiple NDCs, the county must use one service line for each NDC within the claim. Even though the county is reporting more than one NDC, it is claiming reimbursement for one unit of service. Therefore, each service line must contain a fraction of a unit and the sum of all units across all service lines submitted for the same medication must equal one or those service lines will be denied. Please see Exhibit A for an example of how to prepare a claim with multiple NDCs for the same medication administered to the same beneficiary on the same day.

The system change deployed on April 9, 2019, did remove the service date range from MAT dosing services to allow multiple NDCs of the same medication on the same day. Counties may submit claims for reimbursement of multiple types of medication provided to the same beneficiary by the same provider on the same day. Counties may continue to claim reimbursement for a unit of service for each medication administered on the same day as long as the combination of medications is allowed. Please see Exhibit A for an example of how to submit those claims and Exhibit B for the allowable combinations of medications.

Claim Adjustment Reason Codes and Remittance Advice Remark Codes:

Claim Adjustment Reason Codes tell the county why DHCS paid a service line differently than billed. Remittance Advice Remark Codes (RARC) provide additional information about the adjustment described by the CARC. DHCS has revised some existing and added new CARCs and RARCs to implement the changes in SDMC described above. Exhibit C displays the changes made to existing CARCs and RARCs as well as the new CARCs and RARCs added to the SDMC claiming system.

Please e-mail MedCCC@dhcs.ca.gov with any questions regarding this BHIN.

Sincerely,

Original signed by

Brian Fitzgerald, Chief
Local Governmental Financing Division

Enclosures