



One Commerce Plaza Albany, New York 12210

February 4, 2011

**RETRODUR INTERVENTION NOTICE: SUBOXONE**

Dear Prescriber,

The New York State Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program retrospectively reviews the prescribing and dispensing of outpatient prescription medications in order to ensure that prescriptions are appropriate, medically necessary, and are not likely to result in adverse medical outcomes. At the May 14, 2010 Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board Meeting, the Board members reviewed Suboxone® (buprenorphine/naloxone) utilization within the NY Medicaid program.

After considering clinical information, utilization data, and the concerns raised by the membership, including the potential for adverse events and the risk for abuse, misuse, and/or diversion, **the Board recommended quantity and frequency limits for Suboxone® (buprenorphine/naloxone). The quantity and frequency limit is 3 tablets/films daily with an upper limit of 90 tablets/films dispensed as a 30 day supply.**

New York State Medicaid pharmacy claim data indicates that you have written prescription(s) for Suboxone® (buprenorphine/naloxone). Please consider the above recommendation before prescribing Suboxone®, as the DUR Program is concerned that there may be utilization of this medication based on dosage that is not consistent with FDA approved labeling.

In presenting this information to you, the DUR Program recognizes that safe and effective pharmacotherapy depends on the assessment of the patient's entire clinical profile. We ask that you consider the information provided regarding the prescribing of Suboxone® for your patients.

Thank you for your professional assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

John F. Naioti, Jr., R.Ph.  
DUR Program Manager

**Under the Drug Addiction Treatment Act of 2000 (DATA) codified at 21 U.S.C.823(g), prescription use of this product in the treatment of opioid dependence is limited to physicians who meet certain qualifying requirements, and have notified the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) of their intent to prescribe this product for the treatment of opioid dependence and have been assigned a unique identification number that must be included on every prescription<sup>1</sup>.**

<sup>1</sup> Suboxone® (buprenorphine/naloxone) prescribing information. *Reckitt Benckiser*, 09/01/2010. Available at: <http://www.suboxone.com/pdfs/SuboxonePI.pdf>. Accessed December 6, 2010.