

RESOLUTION

Subject: Prior Authorizations for Medications for Opioid Use Disorder (MOUD)

Submitted by: Greater Louisville Medical Society

Referred to: Reference Committee

WHEREAS, according to the 2024 Kentucky Drug Overdose Fatality Report, 1,410 Kentuckians lost their lives last year to a drug overdose¹; and

WHEREAS, medications such as Methadone, Buprenorphine, and Naltrexone are evidence-based treatments for opioid use disorder, recognized for their effectiveness in reducing opioid misuse and overdose deaths²; and

WHEREAS, prior authorization requirements imposed by insurers can delay access to these critical medications, creating unnecessary barriers to treatment and increasing the risk of relapse or overdose; and

WHEREAS, the removal of such administrative barriers aligns with the best practices in addiction medicine and supports patient-centered care; and

WHEREAS, in 2019, the Kentucky Medical Association supported a bill filed in the Kentucky General Assembly (House Bill 121) that would have prohibited insurance company prior authorization requirements for medications for opioid use disorder, which stated in effect, that an insurer shall not require or conduct a prospective or concurrent review for a prescription drug that: (a) Is used in the treatment of opioid use disorder; and (b) Contains Methadone, Buprenorphine, or Naltrexone³; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that KMA supports the enactment of legislation to prohibit insurance providers from requiring prior authorization for medications prescribed for the treatment of opioid use disorder.

References:

1. Kentucky 2024 Drug Overdose Fatality Report, Kentucky Office of Drug Control Policy <https://odcp.ky.gov/Reports/2024%20Drug%20Overdose%20Fatality%20Report.pdf>
2. Position Statement on Access to Evidence-Based Treatment for Opioid Use Disorder Adopted by FSMB House of Delegates, April 2024 <https://www.fsmb.org/siteassets/advocacy/policies/position-statement-on-access-to-evidence-based-treatment.pdf>
3. House Bill 121 <https://apps.legislature.ky.gov/record/19rs/hb121.html>