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3 Title: Repeal Prior Authorization for Medication-Assisted Treatment in Addiction Medicine
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10
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14 Referred to: Reference Committee A
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16 House Action: **APPROVE**
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19 Whereas, the opioid epidemic has been declared a national public health emergency with a growing
20 number of Michigan residents dying from illicit heroin and fentanyl overdoses, despite an overall decrease in
21 opioid prescriptions from 2016-2017^{1,2}, and
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23 Whereas, medication-assisted treatment (MAT) combined with psychosocial therapy is the evidence-
24 based, gold standard treatment for opioid use disorder (OUD) and reduces rates of illicit drug use, overdoses,
25 infectious disease transmission, and crime^{3,4,5,6}, and
26

27 Whereas, national health care stakeholders and experts agree that MAT is unequivocally necessary to
28 maintain recovery and prevent unnecessary deaths in the context of OUD^{7,8,9}, and
29

30 Whereas, MAT has been associated with decreased health system expenditure and utilization in the
31 Medicaid population, including but not limited to, hospital admissions and emergency department visits¹⁰,
32 and
33

34 Whereas, 87 percent of Michigan patients in need of addiction treatment services do not have access
35 to treatment¹¹, and
36

37 Whereas, many insurance companies require prior authorization for coverage of "high-risk"
38 prescriptions, including common MAT formulations¹², and
39

40 Whereas, 42 percent of patients on commercial health insurance must endure burdensome prior
41 authorization before becoming eligible to receive MAT, as averaged across several major cities across the
42 nation¹³, and
43

44 Whereas, a recent study showed Medicaid prior authorization to be linked with lower odds of MAT
45 utilization among addiction treatment programs¹⁴, and
46

47 Whereas, MAT prescribers consider prior authorization, limited insurance reimbursement, and
48 expensive addiction medicine education as major barriers to care, requiring valuable time and resources that
49 create delays and lack of access to life-saving medications¹⁵, and
50

51 Whereas, current MSMS policy supports "Medicaid payment coverage for the medical management
52 and treatment of all substance use disorders,"¹⁶ and

53 Whereas, several major private payers, including Anthem, and Cigna, no longer require prior
54 authorization for MAT in all their plans across the nation¹⁷, and

55 Whereas, recent state legislation and regulation in Minnesota, New York, and Pennsylvania has
56 reduced or eliminated prior authorization for MAT with increased access to life-saving treatment^{18,19,20};
57 therefore be it

58
59 RESOLVED: That MSMS work with statewide stakeholders to advocate for the elimination of
60 insurance-related access barriers, including prior authorization requirements, to all forms of medication-
61 assisted treatment for the medical treatment of substance use disorder.
62

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64 WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE FISCAL NOTE: \$25,000 or more as this resolution directs MSMS to engage in
65 governmental and/or industry advocacy.

Relevant MSMS Policy:

Medicaid Substance Use Disorder Coverage

MSMS supports Medicaid payment coverage for the medical management and treatment of all substance use disorders. (Res54-17)

Relevant AMA Policy:

Support the Elimination of Barriers to Medication-Assisted Treatment for Substance Use Disorder D-95.968

Our AMA will: (1) advocate for legislation that eliminates barriers to, increases funding for, and requires access to all appropriate FDA-approved medications or therapies used by licensed drug treatment clinics or facilities; and (2) develop a public awareness campaign to increase awareness that medical treatment of substance use disorder with medication-assisted treatment is a first-line treatment for this chronic medical disease.

¹ The White House. The President's Commission on combating drug addiction and the opioid crisis 2017.

https://www.whitehouse.gov/sites/whitehouse.gov/files/images/Final_Report_Draft_11-1-2017.pdf. Accessed January 17, 2019.

² Kaiser Family Foundation. State health facts: Opioid overdose deaths by type of opioid 2017. <https://www.kff.org/other/state-indicator/opioid-overdose-deaths-by-type-of-opioid/>. Accessed January 17, 2019.

³ The Pew Charitable Trusts. The case for medication-assisted treatment: MAT can help people with opioid use disorders but few have treatment 2017. <https://www.pewtrusts.org/-/media/assets/2017/02/thecasemedicationassistedtreatment.pdf>. Accessed January 17, 2019.

⁴ Tsui JI, Evans JL, Lum PJ, Hahn JA, Page K. Association of opioid agonist therapy with lower incidence of hepatitis C virus infection in young adult injection drug users. *JAMA Internal Medicine*, 2014;174(12), 1974-1981.

⁵ French MT, Zarkin GA, Hubbard RL, Rachal JV. The effects of time in drug abuse treatment and employment on posttreatment drug use and criminal activity. *The American Journal of Drug and Alcohol Abuse*, 1993;19(1),19-33.

⁶ Merrill J, Alterman A, Cacciola J, Rutherford M. Prior treatment history and its impact on criminal recidivism. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 1999;17(4),313-319.

⁷ National Institute on Drug Abuse. Effective treatments for opioid addiction 2016. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/effective-treatments-opioid-addiction/effective-treatments-opioid-addiction>. Accessed January 17, 2019.

⁸ National Institute on Drug Abuse. America's addiction to opioids: Heroin and prescription drug abuse 2014. <https://www.drugabuse.gov/about-nida/legislative-activities/testimony-to-congress/2014/americas-addiction-to-opioids-heroin-prescription-drug-abuse>. Accessed January 17, 2019.

⁹ US Department of Health and Human Services. Facing addiction in America: The Surgeon General's spotlight on opioids 2018. https://addiction.surgeongeneral.gov/sites/default/files/OC_SpotlightOnOpioids.pdf Accessed January 17, 2019.

¹⁰ Mohlman MK, Tanzman B, Finison K, Pinette M, Jones C. Impact of medication-assisted treatment for opioid addiction on Medicaid expenditures and health services utilization rates in Vermont. *Journal of Substance Abuse Treatment*, 2016;67,9-14.

¹¹ The Foundation for AIDS Research. Opioid and health indicators database: Michigan opioid epidemic. <http://opioid.amfar.org/MI>. Accessed January 17, 2019.

¹² Keast SL, Kim H, Deyo RA, et al. Effects of a prior authorization policy for extended-release/long-acting opioids on utilization and outcomes in a state Medicaid program. *Addiction*. 2018;113:1651-1660. doi:10.1111/add.14248.

¹³ Urban Institute. Coverage of Substance-use disorder treatments in marketplace plans in six cities.

<https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/81856/2000838-Coverage-of-Substance-Use-Disorder-Treatments-in-Marketplace-Plans-in-Six-Cities.pdf>. Accessed January 17, 2019.

¹⁴ Andrews CM, Abraham AJ, Grogan CM, Westlake MA, Pollack HA, Friedmann PD. Impact of Medicaid restrictions on availability of buprenorphine in addiction treatment programs. *American Journal of Public Health*. 2019;e1-3. doi:10.2105/AJPH.2018.304856.

¹⁵ Andraka-Christou B, Capone MJ. A qualitative study comparing physician-reported barriers to treating addiction using buprenorphine and extended-release naltrexone in US office-based practices. *International Journal of Drug Policy*. 2018;54:9-17. doi:10.1016/j.drugpo.2017.11.021.

¹⁶ Michigan State Medical Society. Policy manual: Official policies of the Michigan State Medical Society 2018.

https://www.msms.org/Portals/0/Documents/MSMS/About_MSMS/2018%20MSMS%20Policy%20Manual.pdf?ver=2018-12-11-112410-523. Accessed January 17, 2019.

¹⁷ Levin, A. Anthem ends prior authorization for opioid treatment. *Psychiatric News*, 2017, doi:10.1016/S0002-9343(00)00545-3. Accessed January 17, 2019.

¹⁸ Minnesota Public Radio News. State eliminates hurdle for medicine to treat opioid dependency. <https://www.mprnews.org/story/2018/09/07/state-eliminates-hurdle-for-medicine-to-treat-opioid-dependency>. Accessed January 17, 2019.

¹⁹ American Academy of Family Physicians. Pennsylvania moves to cut administrative burden on MAT 2018. <https://www.aafp.org/news/government-medicine/20181120pennpriorauth.html>. Accessed January 17, 2019.

²⁰ USA Today. Anthem to change opioid treatment policy under deal with NY regulators. <https://www.usatoday.com/story/news/politics/2017/01/19/anthem-change-opioid-treatment-policy-under-deal-ny-regulators/96771566/>. Accessed January 17, 2019.