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MEMO

TO: **Opioid Treatment Providers**
DATE: **March 25, 2020**
RE: **Covid-19 Claims Changes for Medicaid and State Funded Opioid Use Treatment**

Vaya Health recognizes the COVID-19 outbreak may be stressful for people and communities. Individuals in recovery are even more vulnerable during this difficult time. Member health and safety is Vaya's top priority. The outbreak is an evolving situation and we will continue to provide updates to providers, Members and the public. As always, we remain committed to supporting individuals and communities throughout our region.

The Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) has issued guidance in relation to Member's health and safety. For Opioid Treatment Programs that are registered with the State of North Carolina and in-network with Vaya with a Medicaid and/or State contract a temporary change is being made to take-home dosing during this time. In that effort Vaya will temporarily allow reimbursement for daily dosing that supports CDC guidelines for social distancing.

Vaya will temporarily allow reimbursement for additional take-home doses of methadone and buprenorphine for Members receiving Opioid Treatment (H0020). This will allow reimbursement of doses typically received on site to be provided off site via take-home doses if there is no other method for reimbursement of the medication costs. To simplify this and not require additional coding changes at this time, providers can bill the number of units per day equivalent to the number of doses.

Example: If a Member is seen and given 14 days of take-home doses, the provider will bill 15 units of H0020 on that date of service. One unit to account for the onsite dosing and 14 for the medication given to take home.

Although Members may be allowed an increased number of take-home doses at this time, it still is important to ensure quality care and close oversight as they relate to Member progress, appropriate crisis planning, and Member appropriateness for increased off-site dosing as determined by the provider's medical staff. We encourage the clinical staff to the use the approved telephonic codes or telehealth codes to provide ongoing clinical support for the members as appropriate.

Eligibility for Funding
The Adult Substance Opioid Use Disorder (ASOUD) plan established by NC DHHS uses federal State Opioid Response (SOR) grant funding to provide OUD (Opioid Use Disorder) treatment services for individuals who are uninsured.To be eligible under this plan the individual must already be enrolled in the ASOUD target population and actively participating in

medication assisted treatment at a Vaya network provider. As a result of the coronavirus outbreak, individuals enrolled in Substance Abuse Intensive Outpatient Therapy (SAIOP), Substance Abuse Comprehensive Outpatient Therapy (SACOT) and in-person group therapy will have the option for individual outpatient therapy telephonically to meet CDC guidelines for social distancing.

Medicaid members are eligible for take-home doses as allowed by SAMHSA and the medical judgement of the Member's medical staff.