



Mountain-Pacific Quality Health

DUR PROGRAM NEWS



FALL
2022

**Montana Healthcare
Pharmacy Programs Link**
(Current Montana Healthcare
Programs Preferred Drug List,
Provider Notices, DUR Board/
Meeting Information, Resources)
<http://medicaidprovider.mt.gov/19>

For current drug
prior authorization criteria:
[https://www.mpqhf.org/
corporate/montanans-with-
medicaid/pharmacy/](https://www.mpqhf.org/corporate/montanans-with-medicaid/pharmacy/)

The Drug Utilization Review
(DUR) Program, administered by
Mountain-Pacific
through a contract with the
Allied Health Services Bureau
of the Montana
Department of Public Health
and Human Services, is
the quality assurance body
seeking to assure the quality
of pharmaceutical care
and to help provide
rational, cost-effective
medication therapy for
Montana Healthcare Programs
members.

Montana Healthcare Programs
Drug Prior Authorization Unit
1-800-395-7961

Suicide Prevention Awareness

In the time it takes to read this article, one person has died by suicide in the U.S., according to [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention \(CDC\)](#). For every patient who dies from suicide, four people have been hospitalized for attempts, eight people have visited the emergency department related to suicide, 27 people have self-reported they have attempted suicide, and 275 people have seriously considered suicide. Suicide is the 12th leading cause of death in the U.S.

[Montana's suicide rate](#) is consistently in the top three in the U.S. In 2016 and 2017, we had the highest suicide rate of any state before dropping into third place each year through 2020. Considering these statistics, suicide is an issue we all need to be concerned about.

What can each of us do to help? The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) offers these suggestions:

- If you or someone you know is experiencing a mental health crisis, immediately call or text **988**.
- If you are uncomfortable talking on the phone, you can chat with the Suicide & Crisis Lifeline at <https://988lifeline.org/chat/>.
- You can also text **NAMI** to **741-741** to connect to a free, trained crisis counselor on the Crisis Text Line.
- [Know the warning signs and risk factors of suicide:](#)
 - Increased alcohol and drug use
 - Aggressive behavior
 - Withdrawal from friends, family and community
 - Dramatic mood swings
 - Collecting and saving pills or buying a weapon
 - Giving away possessions
 - Tying up loose ends, like organizing personal papers or paying off debts
 - Saying goodbye to friends and family
- Need more information, referrals or support? Contact the NAMI Helpline at 1-800-950-NAMI (6264).

On July 16, the 10-digit Suicide Prevention Lifeline changed to 988. Much more than just a switch to an easier-to-remember number, it represents a holistic revision of the State's suicide prevention and mental health crisis management system, according to [the Montana Department of Health and Human Services \(DPHHS\)](#).

This information is brought to you by:
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Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2008

The Ryan Haight Act was created to regulate online internet prescriptions with the goal of protecting the public. The act aimed to curtail the illegal, online sale of controlled substances. Enforced by the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA), it also imposes rules around the prescribing of controlled substances through telehealth. The act requires any practitioner issuing a prescription for a controlled substance to conduct an in-person medical evaluation (with certain exemptions) within an appropriate time period (usually considered to be 24 months).



With the initial public health emergency (PHE) declaration on January 31, 2020, federal agencies were permitted to make sweeping changes to laws and regulations. These included changes to laws that explicitly impacted telehealth services, such as modifying regulations and other laws that govern telehealth, including provisions of the Ryan Haight Act.

Now as the COVID-19 PHE appears to be coming to an end, many legislators and medical providers are concerned that returning to the pre-pandemic Ryan Haight Act regulations could impact those in lower socioeconomic categories or those in rural areas who have obstacles travelling to medical visits. Telehealth has offered many a new opportunity for access to medical care. No area of medical care has been more significantly impacted than the treatment of substance use disorder (SUD).

On June 22, 2022, the White House Office of National Drug Control Policy released its "Telehealth and Substance Use Disorder Services in the Era of COVID-19: Review and Recommendations." The four recommendations were:

1. Federal Support of Mutual Recognition and Reciprocity of State Licenses
2. Permanently Enact and Expand PHE Telehealth Regulatory Changes
3. Increase Funding for Mobile App and Assistive Telehealth Services
4. Consider the Privacy and Ethical Implications of Telehealth Use

The guidance concludes by emphasizing that "individuals living with SUD are part of a particularly vulnerable group of people who would likely benefit from increased access to health care providers through telehealth. If some of these issues can be addressed and overcome, the future of health care in America can include telehealth services based on evidence-based, informed practices that are designed to be accessible to everyone."²

Resources:

1. Implementation of the Ryan Haight Online Pharmacy Consumer Protection Act of 2008. DEA and Department of Justice. Federal Register, Vol 74 (64) Monday April 6, 2009. Rules and Regulations.
2. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2022/06/Telehealth-and-Substance-Use-Disorder-Services-in-the-Era-of-COVID-19-FINAL.pdf>

Montana Medicaid List of Top Prescriptions 2021

Rx Volume	Drug Generic Name	Percentage
76,384	ALBUTEROL SULFATE	2.75%
70,411	GABAPENTIN	2.53%
59,852	OMEPRAZOLE	2.15%
51,458	SERTRALINE HCL	1.85%
50,967	BUPRENORPHINE HCL/NALOXONE HCL	1.83%
49,967	BUPROPION HCL	1.80%
49,265	HYDROCODONE/ACETAMINOPHEN	1.77%
48,961	LEVOTHYROXINE SODIUM	1.76%
47,393	LISINOPRIL	1.71%
46,236	FLUOXETINE HCL	1.66%
43,413	DEXTROAMPHETAMINE/AMPHETAMINE	1.56%
38,866	ATORVASTATIN CALCIUM	1.40%
38,073	ESCITALOPRAM OXALATE	1.37%
37,884	METFORMIN HCL	1.36%
36,631	TRAZODONE HCL	1.32%
34,695	DULOXETINE HCL	1.25%
31,664	QUETIAPINE FUMARATE	1.14%
31,658	LAMOTRIGINE	1.14%
31,628	METHYLPHENIDATE HCL	1.14%
31,032	FLUTICASONE PROPIONATE	1.12%

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

Q: What medications does the Montana Healthcare Programs cover for opioid use disorder and other substance use disorders?

A: Suboxone® Film is the preferred product for opioid use disorder. Sublocade® and Vivitrol® are also covered with prior authorization for opioid use disorder. Vivitrol® is also indicated and covered for alcohol use disorder with a prior authorization. Oral agents for alcohol use disorder are covered without prior authorization.

There are a few things that are NOT covered:

- Buprenorphine containing products and Vivitrol® are not covered for methamphetamine use disorder, as they do not have a U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) indication for this treatment.
- Suboxone® is not covered for pain management in a patient who does not have a diagnosis of moderate to severe opioid use disorder. The only buprenorphine products that have an FDA indication for pain management are Butrans® patch and Belbuca®, which were developed specifically for pain management. Belbuca® is non-preferred and requires prior authorization. Butrans®, the preferred agent, does not require prior authorization.

Q: What can I do if the current drug shortages affect a preferred product on the preferred drug list (PDL)?

A: When a pharmacy cannot get a preferred product due to a manufacturer shortage, Montana DPHHS and the Drug Prior Authorization Unit work hard to make sure the patient does not suffer. When the shortage of the preferred product is verified, DPHHS directs the Drug Prior Authorization Unit with the best plan.

Q: Where can I get help with prior authorization criteria?

A: The prior authorization criteria is available online at <https://www.mpqhf.org/corporate/montanans-with-medicaid/pharmacy/> under DRUG PRIOR AUTHORIZATION. If you still have questions or need other assistance, you can call the Drug Prior Authorization Unit at 1-800-395-7961.