

# NOTICE:

## AHCCCS Methadone Coverage Clarification

January 24, 2017

The Arizona Health Care Cost Containment System (AHCCCS) has provided clarification on prior authorization (PA) requirements related to methadone coverage on the AHCCCS Drug List.

Beginning 1/1/17, methadone is not listed on the AHCCCS Drug List and requires PA approval when used *for pain*. Health Choice Arizona (HCA) and Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC) Drug Lists (Formularies) are consistent with the AHCCCS Drug list.

Methadone prescription claims are adjudicated by the AHCCCS Fee-For-Service (FFS) or Contractors' (HCA and HCIC) Pharmacy Benefit Managers (PBMs) at the point-of-sale at the pharmacy.

Methadone when used for Opioid Replacement Therapy (ORT) continues to be available without PA through an Opioid Treatment Program (OTP). These claims are not adjudicated by the AHCCCS FFS or Contractors' PBMs and are billed on a medical claim.

For AHCCCS Drug Lists please see the following:

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PharmacyUpdates/AHCCCSAcuteLongTermCareDrugList01012017.pdf> (Methadone for Pain—PA required)

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/Resources/Downloads/PharmacyUpdates/AHCCCSBEHAVIORALHEALTHDRUGLIST01012017.pdf> (Methadone for ORT—no PA required)

