



Medicaid Advisory Letter (MAL) No. 633

DATE: July 1, 2019

TO: Eligible Medicaid Providers
Chief Executive Officers, Medicaid Managed Care Plans
Other Interested Parties

FROM: Maureen M. Corcoran, Medicaid Director

SUBJECT: *Guidelines for Urine Drug Screen Services*

The Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) is providing this guidance to address the concerns regarding overutilization of urine drug screens (UDS) being performed on Medicaid eligible individuals receiving substance abuse treatment.

The Clinical Advisory Group of the Ohio Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services has established broad guidelines for the appropriate clinical use of UDS for patients receiving substance abuse treatment.. The UDS utilization guidelines account for patient safety, acuity, risk of relapse/overdose, level of care, and sustained abstinence. In the establishment of these utilization guidelines, there is recognition that the recovery cycle may start and stop due to a number of risk factors including change in eligibility status, relapse, or patient withdrawal from a recovery program. The table below summarizes an acceptable standard for the average patient receiving evidence-based care. ODM will require a prior authorization request after the 30- and 12-annual limitations listed below have been exceeded.

Treatment Phase	Presumptive Urine Drug Screen	Definitive Urine Drug Test
First 90 days of treatment	15	6
>90 days to 360 days	15	6
First full year of treatment	30	12

These guidelines become effective July 1, 2019. Laboratory related services are covered under OAC 5160-11.

Additional Information

Information about the services and programs of the Ohio Department of Medicaid may be accessed through the main webpage at <http://www.medicaid.ohio.gov>.

Questions pertaining to this MAL may be directed to the Ohio Department of Medicaid:

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