



Oct 13, 2017

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# Substance Abuse Alert: West Virginia Expands Medicaid Program to Cover Naloxone Treatment, Methadone Treatment and Short-Term Residential Treatment for Substance Use Disorders

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These efforts have now borne fruit. On October 10, 2017, Cindy Beane, Commissioner of the West Virginia Bureau for Medical Services (BMS), announced that the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) approved a West Virginia Medicaid Waiver under Section 1115 (a) of the Social Security Act to expand certain treatments for Medicaid beneficiaries with Substance Use Disorders (SUDs) in West Virginia, including:

- Programs to reimburse Naloxone treatments, including first responders and other providers.
- Programs to reimburse Methadone treatment services.
- Programs to provide new short-term 30-day residential treatment services.

Prior to this development, the services available to the Medicaid population in West Virginia were limited, and resources were stretched too thin. The new Section 1115 (a) Waiver is to be effective as of January 1, 2018, and is expected to significantly improve the ability of the West Virginia Medicaid program to address the opioid crisis with more effective treatment programs. The Section 1115 (a) Waiver was approved by Seema Verma in a [letter dated October 6, 2017](#), establishing the parameters for the five-year demonstration project in West Virginia.

If you require further information regarding the new Medicaid waiver program for substance use disorders, please contact [Charles M. Johnson](#) at [cmjohnson@fbtlaw.com](mailto:cmjohnson@fbtlaw.com).

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