



State of Wisconsin  
**Department of Health Services**

Tony Evers, Governor  
Andrea Palm, Secretary

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May 21, 2020

The Honorable Patrick Testin  
Chair, Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Room 131 South  
State Capitol  
PO Box 7882  
Madison, WI 53707-7882

The Honorable Joe Sanfelippo  
Chair, Assembly Committee on Health  
Room 306 North  
State Capitol  
PO Box 8953  
Madison, WI 53708

Dear Senator Testin and Representative Sanfelippo:

2017 Wisconsin Act 262 requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to review its prior authorization policy on buprenorphine-containing products provided to medical assistance program recipients and submit a report to the standing committees of the legislature with jurisdiction over health. DHS is not required to submit the report after the date the prior authorization requirement for use of buprenorphine-containing products by medical assistance program recipients is eliminated for all appropriate populations.

The most recent review finds Wisconsin Medicaid's Preferred Drug List is in line with prescribing patterns across the state, as over 95 percent of prescriptions filled for buprenorphine-containing products are for listed drugs that no longer require prior authorization. The analysis also finds retaining a prior authorization requirement for non-preferred buprenorphine-containing products does not create an undue barrier to access for Wisconsin Medicaid members since the overwhelming majority of claims are for preferred buprenorphine-containing products. The remaining drugs are approved via an expedited process.

The full report is attached.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrea Palm', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Andrea Palm  
Secretary-designee