



**MaineCare Services**  
*An Office of the  
Department of Health and Human Services*

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**To:** MaineCare Providers  
**From:** Jennifer Palow, Pharmacy Unit Manager  
**Date:** August 2nd, 2010  
**Re:** Suboxone vs. Subutex in Breastfeeding

MaineCare has reviewed several months of Prior Authorization submittals seeking Subutex rather than Suboxone for mothers nursing after pregnancy.

The MaineCare PDL currently list Suboxone as the preferred drug for opioid substance abuse treatment while Subutex is non-preferred and only available by Prior Authorization for use during pregnancy.

MaineCare, in consultation with Substance Abuse Treatment providers in the State of Maine, has reviewed the advantages and disadvantages of Suboxone vs. Subutex during nursing and has determined that Subutex does not show clinical advantages during nursing. In addition, MaineCare has reviewed the clinical literature confirming the absence of superiority between products during nursing.

While MaineCare does continue to approve prior authorizations of Subutex for pregnancy. Effective September 1<sup>st</sup> 2010, MaineCare will **not** approve Subutex for nursing mothers and members will need to be transitioned back over to Suboxone for their substance abuse treatment.

If you have any questions please contact the GHS Help Desk at 1-888-420-9711.