

# PROVIDER ALERT

March 1, 2016



## New Policy to Address Outpatient Urine Drug Testing

### Alert

Medica will soon implement a new coverage policy addressing urine drug testing (UDT) in the outpatient setting. This change will apply to UDT for outpatient adherence monitoring of substances of abuse or for controlled substances used to manage chronic pain. UDT will be eligible for coverage according to the terms of a Medica member's plan document *only* when all of the following criteria are met:

- Testing is ordered by an appropriately licensed treating professional;
- Documentation in the medical record includes a signed treatment compliance contract between the individual and the treating health care professional; a history of drug use and current substance use inventory; and a rationale for how UDT results will guide clinical decision-making; and
- Test methodology and frequency comply with standard medical practice as outlined in recognized professional guidelines (e.g., American Society of Addiction Medicine) for all phases of substance abuse treatment (i.e., stabilization, maintenance).

This benefit determination will be effective beginning with May 1, 2016, dates of service. This change will apply to all Medica products including government products unless a particular health plan (whether commercial, Medicare or Medicaid) requires different coverage.

Prior authorization of UDT is not required. However, services with specific coverage criteria may be reviewed retrospectively to determine if criteria are being met. Retrospective denial may result if criteria are not met.

Note: Specimen validity testing to detect specimen substitution, adulteration, or dilution is considered standard urine specimen quality control and is not separately reimbursable. Such testing would include measuring urine pH, urine specific gravity, creatinine, oxidants (nitrites, bleach, iodine or peroxide, for example), or other specimen characteristics.

### Action

No action is required. This new coverage policy will be available online as of May 1, 2016. [See Medica's coverage policies](#) or call the Medica Provider Literature Request Line for a printed copy, toll-

free at 1-800-458-5512, option 1, then option 5, ext. 2-2355.

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