

**U.S. HEALTHCARE HOLDINGS, LLC
DEPARTMENTAL POLICY**

POLICY: <u>MP-003</u>	POLICY NAME: <u>Methadone Maintenance for Opiate Addiction</u>
DATE WRITTEN: <u>October 4, 2007</u>	REVISED: <u>January 21, 2008</u>
APPROVED BY: <u>Q&UM Committee</u>	APPROVED ON: <u>February 5, 2008</u>

Policy: Methadone maintenance for opiate addiction is a technique that has been shown to reduce the social consequences of opiate addiction (HIV, crime, antisocial behavior, poverty.) The vast majority of this data has been collected in the heroin-addicted population. In a commercially-insured population, the majority of opiate-addicted patients are addicted to prescription pain killers rather than heroin. WHP will cover methadone maintenance of opiate-addicted patients under the following circumstances:

1. The member must first be evaluated by a participating, board-certified specialist in addiction medicine. The addiction specialist must agree that short-term methadone maintenance is an appropriate course of therapy and refer the patient to the federally certified treatment facility.
2. Methadone treatment is considered a bridge to opiate detoxification and withdrawal, not a long-term solution. Duration of covered maintenance shall not exceed 180 consecutive days.
3. Methadone maintenance will only be covered in a federally certified methadone treatment facility. WHP will compensate the provider at a flat rate of \$95.00 per week. The member will be responsible for 1 Specialist office visit copay per week for detoxification.
4. Services that fall outside of the aforementioned or exceed 180 days duration are the member's financial responsibility.