



**Senate Finance Committee  
February 28, 2023**

**Senate Bill 441  
Maryland Medical Assistance Program - Prescription Digital Therapeutics  
Support**

NCADD-Maryland supports Senate Bill 441 to require Medicaid cover digital therapeutics available by prescription. Prescription digital therapeutics are a new and growing technology that is being used to help people with various kinds of diseases and conditions. We are lucky that there are products on the market to help people with substance use disorders including people with opioid use disorders. This is a new tool that can be utilized to stop the growing number of overdose deaths in Maryland.

These additional tools are proven effective as they are authorized by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and provide a different kind of support that works for many people. People who are in treatment do not have access to their counselors or therapists 24/7. This kind of application on an individual's phone or tablet allows them access to a program that, for example, could help them with strategies when they experience cravings.

Many of us use all kinds of these wellness applications and some of us find them very helpful. But those applications that we buy on the app store do not come with any kind of proof of efficacy. Further, there is no requirement that your personal data remain private. These digital therapeutics that are authorized by the FDA, meaning they are available only by prescription and only when medically necessary, are proven effective and have to be compliant with HIPAA laws when it comes to data privacy.

States are figuring out how to cover this new technology. The federal government is working on guidance on developing the right path to coverage. Private insurance companies are beginning to cover these products and the state must consider how we can make them available to people enrolled in Medicaid.

We urge a favorable report on Senate Bill 441.

*The Maryland Affiliate of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (NCADD-Maryland) is a statewide organization that works to influence public and private policies on addiction, treatment, and recovery, reduce the stigma associated with the disease, and improve the understanding of addictions and the recovery process. We advocate for and with individuals and families who are affected by alcoholism and drug addiction.*