IMPORTANT INFORMATION REGARDING
OptumRx Quantity Limit Changes on Short Acting Opioids

Effective Date: 07/01/2017, ongoing in 2018 and throughout 2018

OptumRx Quantity Limit (QL) Changes on Short Acting Opioids impacting select Commercial clients
Quantity Limits with Centers for Disease Controlled (CDC) Guidelines on Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) Dosing

OptumRx is currently embarking on an initiative to curb the rising tide of opioid abuse across the US. Effective July 1, 2017, select OptumRx Commercial Clients will align with recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and clinically based prescribing habits on the number of Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) a member can receive at any given time of a Short-Acting Opioid (SAO) medication (brand or generic product).

There will be separate limits for (1) members who are new to therapy and (2) members who are existing users of opioids (treatment experienced member).

Please Note: Edits will first screen the past 360 days of a member’s profile for oncology drugs and will not initiate a quantity limit if one is found

(1) New to Therapy: Member Limits on Short Acting Opioids

Members who are naïve to opioid therapy (no opioid in their most recent 120 day claims history), will be limited to a maximum of 49 morphine-equivalent mg per day of an opioid medication per fill, max 7 days supply, limit 2 fills within 60 day timeframe.

- If a claim exceeds one of these limits, the claim will reject for excessive quantity and the following message will display:
  - New to Tx QL =XX/Day,7DS,2Rx/60D; Tx Exp QL XX//Day,2Rx/60D

TO REDUCE PROCESSING ERRORS, PLEASE CONFIRM THE INFORMATION ON MEMBER’S ID CARD PRIOR TO SUBMITTING PRESCRIPTION CLAIMS.

Should you have any questions or require assistance, please contact the OptumRx Help Desk:
Pharmacy Help Desk: (800) 788-7871 (24 hours a day, 7 days a week)

For questions regarding this communication call:
Provider Relations (877) 633-4701 or e-mail provider.relations@optum.com

Please distribute immediately.
(2) Treatment Experienced Member Limits on Short Acting Opioids

Members who are NOT new to therapy *(have opioid fills in their most recent 120 day claims history)*, will be limited to a maximum of 90 morphine-equivalent mg per day of an opioid medication per fill, and subject to 2 fills within a 60 day timeframe.

- If a claim exceeds one of these limits, the claim will reject for excessive quantity and the following message will display:
  - New to Tx QL =XX/Day,7DS,2Rx/60D; Tx Exp QL = XX/Day,2Rx/60D

*When these edits are encountered*, follow your applicable Federal or State dispensing guidelines for dispensing controlled substances. Specific to CII dispensing, either:

- Cut back the quantity to the limit permitted, cancelling the remainder of the units on the prescription, OR

- Dispense an emergency 1-2 day supply, while PA is sought for the higher volume if justified

**A Prior Authorization may be pursued if clinically necessarily.**

Additional treatment/increased quantities will be approved with a PA when the following criteria are met:

1. One of the following:
   1.1. Diagnosis of Cancer OR
   1.2. Patient is receiving opioids as part of end of life care OR
   1.3. All of the following:
      1.3.1. The prescriber certifies that there is an active treatment plan that includes but is not limited to a specific treatment objective and the use of other pharmacological and non-pharmacological agents for pain relief as appropriate AND
      1.3.2. The prescriber certifies that there has been an informed consent document signed and an addiction risk assessment has been performed AND
      1.3.3. The prescriber certifies that a written/signed agreement between prescriber and patient addressing issues of prescription management, diversion, and the use of other substances exists

**Resources and Education for Pharmacists:**


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