

Opioid Change Alert

Effective 5/1/2023, in order to help ensure the safety of our patients using opioids, we have made some updates to our rules regarding opioid prescriptions. These rules are only for short acting opioids and those that are under 90 MME.

If you would like your patient to have **30-day supplies of short acting opioids**, you must fill out a PA form and provide/be aware of the following information:

- Provide a diagnosis.
- Be aware of concurrent use of opioid potentiators (the physician reviewer will deny the request if your patient is on 2 or more potentiators unless it is medically necessary).
- Provide a history of at least 2 attempts of non-opioid pain management in the last 60 days such as physical therapy, NSAIDs, topical pain medications, or injections.

There will be additional changes for **all opioids** that will include alerts for the pharmacist if your patient meets the following:

- Recently filled an opioid potentiator.
- Been prescribed an opioid by more than 2 prescribers in a calendar year.
- Filled an opioid at 2 or more different pharmacies in a calendar year.
- Currently taking Buprenorphine along with an opioid prescription that is less than a 7-day supply.
- Currently taking 2 or more long acting or short acting opioids concurrently.

These changes will also prevent the pharmacy from filling **all opioids** for your patients if they meet the following:

- Recently filled 2 or more opioid potentiators
- Been prescribed an opioid by more than 3 different prescribers in a calendar year.
- Filled an opioid at 3 or more different pharmacies in a calendar year.
- Currently taking Buprenorphine along with an opioid that is more than a 7-day supply.
- Currently taking 3 or more long acting or short acting opioids concurrently.

Please note that for long-acting opioids, high dose opioids (over 90 MME) and Methadone for pain (Methadone for substance abuse is carved out), these rules will **not be applied** as the state PA form is required. In addition, there will be **no prior authorization required for short acting opioids** for members when the list below applies:

- Receiving a 7-day supply or less for their first fill.
- Receiving 14-day supplies or less for additional fills.
- The opioid is on our formulary.
- The member was grandfathered in (already on 15- to 30-day supplies) for that medication
- For member on the exceptions list (cancer patients, sickle cell, palliative care, etc.)

If you have any questions regarding these changes, please feel free to contact our Customer Service Department at 1-888-JAI-1999.