



2019 Opioid Readiness: UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans

Quick Reference Guide

UnitedHealthcare is confronting the opioid epidemic from all angles. We're joining with care providers and communities to prevent opioid misuse and addiction. Through touch points, we help support safe and appropriate opioid use right from the start. To help with this effort, we developed the following UnitedHealthcare pharmacy-based programs to align with The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) Medicare Part D Opioid Overutilization Policy. These programs are specific to UnitedHealthcare Medicare Advantage and Prescription Drug Plans.

Opioid Dispensing Limit Supports safe and appropriate use of opioids while limiting excess supply in the market.		
Benefit Change	Description and Resolution	Prescriber Action
Opioid Dispensing Limit	Limits opioid dispensing by mail and at retail locations to a one-month supply per prescription. The pharmacy will reprocess the claim for a one-month supply. Point-of-service message: Maximum Days Supply "XX"	Limit prescribing to a one-month supply per prescription.
Concurrent Drug Utilization Review (cDUR) Program (Safety Edits) The cDUR Program uses the pharmacy claims processing system to screen all prescriptions at the point-of-service. It checks for possible inappropriate drug prescribing and utilization, as well as potentially dangerous medical implications or drug interactions. The program includes communication to the dispensing pharmacy at point-of-service through claims edits and messaging.		
Safety Edits	Description and Resolution	Prescriber Action
7-Day Supply Limit for Opioid-Naïve Members*	Applies to opioid pain medications for opioid-naïve members. Historical opioid use: Resolved at point-of-service by pharmacist intervention. No historical opioid use: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> The pharmacy will resubmit the claim for 7-day supply only. The pharmacy may override the reject with the prescriber's approval. Point-of-service message: 7-DAY MAX FOR OPIOID NAIVE	Prescribe a 7-day supply or less. If more than a 7-day supply is medically necessary, contact the dispensing pharmacy to obtain a plan override. Exemptions to a 7-day supply include (active cancer related pain, end of life/palliative care ongoing chronic use). You can request prior authorization if the pharmacy cannot obtain an override.

<p>Opioid Care Coordination Safety Edit (OCC)</p>	<p>Limits cumulative dosage to 90 morphine milligram equivalent (MME) per day and two or more prescribers.</p> <p>Point-of-service message: OCC:RPH Review; ENTER R0-1B OCC:MD Review; ENTER M0-1G</p>	<p>Limit high-dose opioid prescribing.</p> <p>Prescribe lowest effective dose.</p> <p>Help ensure opioid prescribing is coordinated and limited to one prescriber, when appropriate.</p> <p>Provide timely response to pharmacy outreach.</p>
<p>Cumulative Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) Opioid Safety Edit</p>	<p>Limits cumulative dosage to 200 MME per day and two or more prescribers.</p> <p>Pharmacy can't override.</p> <p>Point-of-service message: OPIOID MME PA REQ'D, 800-711-4555</p>	<p>Prior authorization required.</p>
<p>Opioids and Drugs to Treat Opioid Use Disorder (OUD)</p>	<p>Alert for concurrent use of opioids and drugs to treat OUD.</p> <p>Pharmacy may override the rejection with the prescriber's approval</p> <p>Point-of-service message: Buprenorphn Hx: RPH/MD Cnslt, Enter O/R</p>	<p>Provide timely response to pharmacy outreach.</p>
<p>Opioids and Benzodiazepines</p>	<p>Alert for concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines.</p> <p>Pharmacy may override the rejection with the prescriber's approval</p> <p>Point-of-service message: Benzo + Opioid Hx: RPH/MD Cnslt, Enter O/R</p>	<p>Provide timely response to pharmacy outreach.</p>
<p>Duplicate Therapy – Long-Acting Opioids (LAOs)</p>	<p>Alert for concurrent use of multiple LAOs</p> <p>Pharmacy may override the rejection with the prescriber's approval</p> <p>Point-of-service message: LA Opioid Hx: RPH/MD Cnslt, ENTER O/R</p>	<p>Provide timely response to pharmacy outreach.</p>

Retrospective Drug Utilization Review

The Drug Management Program analyzes pharmacy claims on a monthly basis and sends communications to prescribers.

Drug Management Program	Helps support safe use of prescription opioid medications, or other frequently abused medications. Identifies members who are prescribed opioids from several prescribers or pharmacies. Through provider discussion, if misuse or abuse is determined, the plan may limit how opioids are received. Limitations include: pharmacy lock-in, prescriber lock-in or opioid restriction (limiting drug/quantity)	Engage with case management team in a timely manner. Consider a pharmacy/prescriber lock- in to better manage uncoordinated care, when necessary.
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Active cancer, hospice, or members who reside in a long-term care setting may be excluded from opioid safety edits.

*Definition of an opioid-naïve patient: New to opioid therapy/no recent history of opioid use.

Questions?



If you have questions, please call the number on your patient's UnitedHealthcare member ID card.