

NOTICE:

7-Day Supply Limit for Short-Acting Opioids Effective April 1, 2017

March 1, 2017

Per an Executive Order signed by Governor Ducey, Health Choice Arizona (HCA) and Health Choice Integrated Care (HCIC) will be implementing the changes outlined below to ensure short-acting opioids are initiated and continued appropriately. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact our pharmacy departments at 800-322-8670 (HCA) or 928-774-7128 (HCIC).

The following changes will be effective 4/1/2017:

- All short-acting opioid prescriptions are limited to a 7 day initial fill (exceptions listed below)
- Members under 18 years of age may only receive 7 day fills of short-acting opioids (initial fills and subsequent refills)
- **Prior authorization is required when any of the following apply:**
 - Initial fill for a formulary short-acting opioid greater than a 7 day supply for members 18 years of age and older
 - Initial fill or refill for a formulary short-acting opioid greater than a 7 day supply for members under 18 years of age
 - All non-formulary short-acting opioids will continue to require prior authorization and are subject to the non-formulary opioid criteria. The most up-to-date formulary and criteria can be found on our websites.

Definition of an initial fill: Member has not previously filled a prescription for an opioid medication within 60 days of the date the pharmacy is processing the current prescription as evidenced by the member's fill history within our database.

If the member has one of the conditions listed below, the prescription may be exempt from this mandate. Prescribers are required to add the designated wording to the prescription or e-script:

- **Active Oncology Diagnosis:** Prescriber is required to notify the pharmacy the short-acting opioid is used to treat Neoplasm related pain (ICD-10 code G89.3).
- **Post-Surgery:** Prescriber is required to notify the pharmacy the short-acting opioid is used to treat "Post-Surgical Care", which may be allowed for a maximum of a 14 day supply.
- **Traumatic Injury** (not including Post-Surgical procedures): Prescriber is required to notify the pharmacy the short-acting opioid is for a traumatic injury and provide the applicable ICD-10 trauma code.
- **Palliative Care:** Prescriber is required to notify the non-Hospice pharmacy the short acting opioid is for "Palliative Care".
- **Hospice Care:** Members enrolled in Hospice care are exempt from this policy. Prescriptions for these members may be obtained from the Hospice Provider's designated pharmacy and they are not billed through point-of-sale as a pharmacy benefit.
- **End-of-Life Care** (other than hospice): Prescriber is required to notify the pharmacy the short-acting opioid is for "end-of-life care".
- **Child on opioid wean at time of hospital discharge:** For members under 18 years of age meeting this condition, the prescriber is required to notify the pharmacy the short-acting opioid is for "a child on opioid wean at time of hospital discharge".

