

Nov. 4, 2019

Subject: Centennial Care Implements Daily Cumulative Opioid Dosing Limits

Dear Provider:

Thank you for your continued partnership with Presbyterian Health Plan, Inc. and Presbyterian Insurance Company, Inc. (Presbyterian). As a contracted provider with Presbyterian Centennial Care, we recognize the importance of your contribution to the health of our members. In the spirit of collaboration and to serve our members better, we want to provide important information to assist providers in the care of our members.

Effective Oct. 15, 2019, Presbyterian implemented a process to calculate the MME cumulative opioid dosage and provide real-time messages to the dispensing pharmacy following the guidelines and language under the Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment for Patients and Communities (SUPPORT) Act and the New Mexico Human Services Department Medical Assistance Division (HSD MAD). Presbyterian implemented this process to comply with the requirements of the SUPPORT Act regarding maximum daily morphine milligram equivalent (MME) safety edits.

The MME calculation is based on Centers for Disease Control (CDC) MME conversion factors. The MME cumulative dose is calculated based upon review of all active and/or overlapping opioid prescriptions that reach or exceed the threshold indicated on the member's profile. Providers can find more information about recommended daily dosage of opioids at https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating_total_daily_dose-a.pdf.

How does this affect you?

When the cumulative opioid dosage exceeds 90 MME per day, the prescription claim will reject. To request an increase to the MME limit, prescribers must complete and sign the Drug Prior Authorization Request form and fax it to the Presbyterian Centennial Care Pharmacy Services department for clinical review. Prescribers must submit a new request for all subsequent requests for an increase to the MME limit. The fax number for the Presbyterian Centennial Care Pharmacy Services department is (505) 923-5540.

For MME cumulative dosages between 50 and 90 milligrams (mg) per day for members with no fill history for an opioid medication in the past 120 days, also known as opioid naïve members, a soft reject is currently in place that can be reviewed and overridden by the dispensing pharmacist at the point of sale. A soft reject is also currently in place for the treatment of an opioid naïve member attempting to fill an opioid prescription that is greater than a seven-day supply.

Exceptions

Members in a long-term care (LTC) facility, hospice care and/or with a cancer diagnosis are excluded from the provisions from the SUPPORT Act. For members with a cancer diagnosis, exclusions are determined by the existence of cancer treatment medications and/or diagnosis designation on their eligibility record. For members in a LTC facility and/or hospice care, exclusions are determined by the residence code on the prescription claim and/or member hospice diagnosis code on their eligibility record.

Additional Resources

Below are additional resources for providers regarding the SUPPORT Act and CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.

- SUPPORT Act: <https://www.congress.gov/115/plaws/publ271/PLAW-115publ271.pdf>
- CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain:
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm?CDC_AA_refVal=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.cdc.gov%2Fmmwr%2Fvolumes%2F65%2Frr%2Frr6501e1er.htm

Thank you for collaborating with us to improve the health of the patients, members, and communities we serve.

Sincerely,

Presbyterian Health Plan
Presbyterian Pharmacy Services Department
(505) 923-5757, select pharmacy option (option 3)