

Ambetter Opioid Prescribing Limits

Effective 9/17/18

LIMITATIONS

- Maximum 7-day supply at one time
- Maximum two 7-day supply fills in any 28-day period
- Maximum 28-day supply in any 90-day period

IMPACTS

- Current members who have not previously had a claim for an opioid

EXCEPTIONS

- Prior authorization will be required to prescribe opioids outside of those limitations
- Those with exempt conditions including active cancer treatment, palliative care, and end-of-life/hospice care

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are we adding this limit?

The opioid epidemic has claimed countless lives during the last three years. Many states are starting to limit providers' ability to prescribe long-term opioid medications. To help our providers better manage opioid overutilization we are instituting this edit. Our members who have legitimate medical need for long-term opioid use will be able to obtain a prior authorization (PA).

Who is affected by this limit?

Current and future members that previously have not had an opioid claim.

Who will be exempt from this limit?

Current and future members who have a condition that can only be managed by long term opioid use. Such conditions include, but are not limited to, cancer and sickle cell.

Are there any other limits imposed?

Yes, the edit will also check for a daily morphine equivalent. If the morphine daily equivalent is greater than 120, the edit will reject the claim and present the dispensing pharmacist the option to override.

How can dispensing pharmacists override the morphine equivalent rejection?

Dispensing pharmacists can use the standard point of service (POS) rejection override codes PPS Professional Service Codes (MO, PO, PM, RO) and Result of Service Codes (1B, 1C, 1D, 1F, 1G and 2A)

Can the dispensing pharmacist override maximum day limits?

No, maximum day limits require submission of a PA.

Please explain the maximum day limit.

The member will be able to get up to a maximum 7-day supply of opioid medications for an initial fill. The second fill will be limited to an additional 7-day supply. The member will be able to obtain up to 2 fills in any 28-day period and up to a 28-day supply in any 90-day period. For example, if the member fills a 7-day supply on July 1st, the member would be able to get another 7-day fill on the 8th. The member then would have to wait 2 weeks to obtain an additional 7-day fill or would require a PA override.

How can a member/provider obtain an override?

Overrides can be provided by submitting a PA request to the PA team. Fax: 1-866-399-0929 or Phone: 1-866-399-0928



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