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Louisiana Department of Health Morphine Equivalent Dosing (MED) Limit for Opioids

Notice to Prescribers of Opioid Prescriptions

In response to the opioid crisis in Louisiana, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana is reviewing opioid utilization. Through this correspondence, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) and AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana are notifying you of safeguards that we are implementing to deter excessive utilization of opioids.

All opioid pharmacy claims will be reviewed for morphine equivalent dosing (MED) greater than 120mg/day. To allow prescribers time to reevaluate patient's opioid utilization, an alert will be issued from May 1, 2017 to July 9, 2017. There will be a 60-day Continuity of Care (COC) allowance until the denial begins on July 10, 2017.

Recipients with a diagnosis of cancer and palliative care will be exempt from the MED requirements.

Prescribers should determine if tapering an opioid dose to less than 120mg/day MED would be appropriate. If not, the provider should request an override through the prior authorization department utilizing the *Opioid Analgesic Treatment Worksheet* found at www.amerhealthcaritasla.com on the Providers tab under Forms. This form is common to all Medicaid plans.

If you believe a dose reduction is appropriate, this resource provides tapering guidelines for your convenience:
http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/clinical_pocket_guide_tapering-a.pdf.

If you or your patient think a discontinuation of the opioid medication is the recommended treatment choice, AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana supports the Medication Assisted Treatment (MAT). AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana offers the Let Us Know Program for providers to refer members to services such as care management. Contact the AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana Rapid Response and Outreach Team (RROT) at 1-888-643-0005 from 8:00 am to 6:30 pm, Monday through Friday to be connected with a care manager. A care manager can refer you or your patient to a MAT provider in the AmeriHealth Caritas Louisiana network.

We encourage you to access these resources to review your patient's current prescription activity:

- lamedicaid.com: Electronic Clinical Data Inquiry (eCDI) provides recipient clinical history information, including current prescription data, within the Louisiana Medicaid program.
- <https://louisiana.pmpaware.net/login/>: Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) provides recipient prescription data for controlled substances.

If you have questions regarding this notification, please contact PerformRx Pharmacy Services at 1-800-684-5502.