

October 10, 2018

<Provider Name>
<Provider Address 1>
<Provider Address 2>
<Provider City> <State> <zipcode5-zipcode4>

Dear Provider:

RE: Dispensing Limits on Opioids

The Michigan Department of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) is enforcing certain dispensing limits on opioids to align with safe prescribing guidelines and statutory requirements. These changes may affect the quantity of your patients' opioid medications dispensed at the pharmacy.

Seven-Day Supply of Opioids for Acute Pain

Pursuant to MCL 333.7333b, if a prescriber is treating a patient for acute pain, the prescriber shall not prescribe the patient more than a 7-day supply of an opioid within a 7-day period. To enforce this requirement, MDHHS is limiting coverage of short-acting narcotic analgesics for Medicaid Fee-for-Service (FFS) beneficiaries who are opioid treatment-naïve to a 7-day supply. Opioid treatment-naïve beneficiaries are identified as those who have not had a recent Medicaid FFS claim for a narcotic drug.

If the beneficiary requires a longer duration of the opioid prescription to treat chronic pain, the prescriber may submit a prior authorization (PA) request to override the 7-day supply limit. To submit this request, contact MDHHS' Pharmacy Benefits Manager (PBM) Clinical Call Center at (877) 864-9014.

Morphine Equivalent Daily Dose (MEDD) Limits

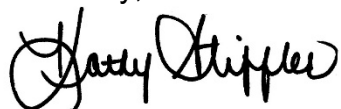
Starting September 21, 2018, MDHHS will set a cumulative MEDD limit on pharmacy claims for Medicaid FFS beneficiaries. This limit will prevent pharmacies from dispensing quantities of opioids that significantly exceed prescribing guidelines issued by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). The maximum allowed MEDD will continue to be lowered on a gradual and periodic basis until MEDD thresholds align with Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines.

The prescriber may submit a PA request to override this limit by contacting the PBM Clinical Call Center. The prescriber will need to provide clinical justification for the high MEDD treatment plan and/or a provide a taper plan.

To avoid exceeding the MEDD limit, prescribers are encouraged to assess their patients' opioid therapies and work with patients to develop taper plans if appropriate.

Any questions regarding this letter should be directed to MDHHSPharmacyServices@michigan.gov. Thank you for your continued partnership to care for Medicaid beneficiaries.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathy Stiffler". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kathy Stiffler, Acting Director
Medical Services Administration