

**THIS CA UPDATE HAS BEEN SENT TO THE FOLLOWING:****COUNTIES:**

- Imperial
- Riverside/San Bernardino
- Los Angeles
- Orange
- Sacramento
- San Diego

**LINES OF BUSINESS:**

- Molina Medi-Cal Managed Care
- Molina Medicare Options Plus
- Molina Dual Options Cal MediConnect Plan (Medicare-Medicaid Plan)
- Molina Marketplace (Covered CA)

**PROVIDER TYPES:** **Medical Group/ IPA/MSO****Primary Care**

- IPA/MSO
- Directs

**Specialists**

- Directs
- IPA

 **Hospitals****Ancillary**

- CBAS
- SNF/LTC
- DME
- Home Health
- Other

**FOR QUESTIONS CALL PROVIDER SERVICES:**  
(855) 322-4075, Extension:

**Los Angeles/Orange Counties**

X111113 X123017  
X127657 X120104

**Riverside/San Bernardino Counties**

X127684 X128010  
X120618

**Sacramento County**

X126232 X121360

**San Diego County**

X121805 X121401  
X127709 X121413  
X123006 X120630

**Imperial County**

X125682 X125666

## Medi-Cal Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Educational Article – Central Nervous System (CNS) Depressants and Opioid Prescribing

This is an advisory notification to Molina Healthcare of California (MHC) network providers.

Molina Healthcare of California wants to remind providers of the risks associated with the combined use of certain opioid medications and a class of central Nervous System (CNS) depressants called benzodiazepines. As you may be aware, the FDA announced in 2016 that it will require Boxed Warnings added to the drug labeling of prescription opioid pain and cough medications and benzodiazepines due to serious side effects, including slowed or difficult breathing and deaths. Also that it will require class-wide changes to drug labeling, including patient information, to help inform health care providers and patients of the serious risks associated with the use of certain opioid medications in combination with benzodiazepines and other CNS depressants. The new Boxed Warnings are the result of an FDA review that found serious side effects, including slowed or difficult breathing and death attributed to co-prescribing of opioids with CNS depressants, including benzodiazepines, non-benzodiazepine receptor agonists, and antipsychotics.

For Providers, if CNS polypharmacy cannot be avoided, health care professionals should work to limit the dosages and duration of each drug to the minimum possible while achieving the desired clinical effect. Health care professionals should take additional actions and precautions when buprenorphine or methadone is used in combination with benzodiazepines or other CNS depressants, including developing a treatment plan and educating patients about the serious risks of combined use, including overdose and death, that can occur with CNS depressants even when used as prescribed, as well as when used illicitly.

### QUESTIONS

If you have any questions regarding the notification, please contact your Molina Provider Services Representative at (855) 322-4075. Please refer to the extensions to the left.