

Provider Memorandum

Pain Safety Initiative (PSI)

Impacted Line of Business: Medicaid

Molina Healthcare of Illinois (Molina) is committed to stifling the effects of the opioid abuse epidemic which has claimed the lives of an increasing number of people in recent years. Opioid prescribing continues to fuel the epidemic. To this end, Molina is launching a comprehensive substance use disorder plan that will help ensure opioids are prescribed appropriately for members through the Pain Safety Initiative (PSI) beginning April 1.

The PSI is comprised of more than 40 measures that leverage the tools available to support judicious prescribing practices, focus on improved member outcomes, identify overuse, misuse and fraud, and support activities that result in safer communities.

Benefits of high-dose opioids for chronic pain are not established and at the same time, risks for serious harm related to opioid therapy increase at higher opioid dosages. Because of this, safe and appropriate opioid prescribing and utilization is a priority in health care.¹

Effective April 1, 2019, Molina will implement two key elements of the Pain Safety Initiative (PSI).

1. **Extended Release (ER) Opioid Step Therapy:** Molina will be implementing a pharmacy tool that ensures that Extended Release (ER) opioids are appropriately prescribed (as documented by the drug manufacturer and the Federal Drug Administration (FDA)). This tool requires prior authorization when it appears that the member has received a prescription for an extended release opioid formulation inappropriately.
2. **Acute Pain Duration Limits:** To reduce the number of new opioid prescriptions, Molina will limit the amount of short-acting opioids that a member can receive for acute pain.
 - For the patient's first opioid prescription (i.e., his or her past 90-day prescription claim history does not have a cumulative 7-day supply of an immediate- or extended-release opioid agent):
 - The Acute Pain Duration Limit will apply to the incoming prescription drug at the point of sale.
 - If the incoming prescription drug is being filled for more than a cumulative 7-day supply, the claim will reject with a message indicating that the patient can either receive a 7-day supply or submit a prior authorization (PA).

Molina requires providers to adhere to Molina's drug formularies and prescription policies designed to prevent abuse or misuse of high-risk chronic pain medication. Providers are expected to offer additional education and support to members regarding Opioid and pain safety as needed. Providers may access additional Opioid-safety and Substance Use Disorder resources at <https://www.molinahealthcare.com/providers/common/medicaid/hipaa/Pages/Opioid-Safety-Guidelines.aspx>.

Questions

Please refer to the opioid analgesic section in the medication formulary, <https://www.molinahealthcare.com/providers/il/medicaid/drug/Pages/formulary.aspx> for more information on Molina's Pain Safety Initiatives.

If you have any questions, please contact the Molina Pharmacy Department at (855) 866-5462, option 1, then 2. A pharmacy technician is available to assist you from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday.

¹ The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Injury Prevention and Control: Prescription Opioid Overdose Data. Available from: www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/data.html