

Opioid Prescribing Guidelines

Dear Opioid Prescribing Providers,

This News Bulletin provides guidelines and information regarding appropriate prescribing of Opioid.

- New Mexico experienced a 20.8% drug overdose death rate increase from 2013 to 2014 with 547 deaths in 2014;
- New Mexico has the second highest rate of drug overdose deaths in the U.S;
- At least half of all U.S. opioid overdose deaths involve a prescription opioid; and
- Overdose deaths involving prescription opioids have quadrupled since 1999 and so have sales of these prescription drugs.

There is reliable evidence that the risks associated with prescribing opioids for individuals with chronic pain may outweigh its benefits. The most significant risks are inappropriate opioid use, overdose, and death. According to the Centers for Disease and Prevention (CDC) about forty (40) Americans die each day from overdosing on prescription painkillers.

Molina Healthcare of New Mexico, Inc. (Molina Healthcare) strongly encourages providers to review CDC's Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. Please follow this link to review:

<http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm>

The Guideline provides recommendation for appropriate prescribing of opioid medications to treat chronic pain. It offers recommendations for clinicians who are treating chronic pain, but is not intended for Members who are receiving cancer treatment, palliative or end-of-life care.

The main objectives of the Guideline are to enhance communications between clinicians and patients about the risks and benefits of opioid therapy for chronic pain, improve the safety and effectiveness of treatment, decrease inconsistencies in prescribing practices, and reduce the risks of inappropriate opioid use, overdose and death.

Thank you,

Molina Healthcare