



Suite 1300
4000 Town Center
Southfield, MI 48075

mibluecrosscomplete.com

To: Blue Cross Complete of Michigan Providers
Date: February 3, 2020
Subject: **New opioid medication prescribing limits edit effective March 1, 2020**

Summary: Blue Cross Complete of Michigan announces an update to the cumulative monthly morphine equivalents, or MME, edit for prescribed opioid medications as of March 1, 2020.

Impact

Opioid utilization and overutilization continue to be a focus in healthcare. Although opioid utilization in general has continued to decrease, safe opioid prescribing practices continue to be a focus. In addition, continuous improvement in the way opioids are prescribed enhances safety and helps ensure more effective chronic pain treatment.* More importantly, it helps ensure patient safety and improved outcomes.

Current guidelines and updates are available from the Centers for Disease Control and the Michigan Quality Improvement Consortium.

- CDC – www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html**
- MQIC – www.mqic.org/guidelines.htm**

Blue Cross Complete implemented an accumulation edit to enhance safety and to identify members who may need additional outreach from our case management team. This edit was originally set at 150 mg per day and is in addition to other edits such as age limits, quantity limits, and the seven-day acute opioid limit, which are applied under the plan's pharmacy benefit. The upcoming change will set the MME limit at 120 mg per day. This change allows us to align with the current fee-for-service cumulative MME edit. Any members who require an MME greater than 120 mg per day will require prior authorization for their opioid prescriptions.

It's important to state that this edit isn't meant to supersede clinical practice guidelines or the treatment plan for your individual patients. It's intended to address safety and prevent unintentional consequences of elevated and long term opioid utilization.



Action

Starting on March 1, 2020, the plan will require prior authorization for opioid prescriptions with an individual or cumulative MME greater than 120 mg per day. The change details are reflected in the chart below. These changes don't impact the current formulary structure and edits established for opioids that are covered on the Common Formulary. Members identified as having a cumulative MME greater than 120 mg per day, and who don't currently have an authorization in place for this edit, will be grandfathered until June 1, 2020. This will help minimize potential disruption and allow for additional outreach and engagement activities.

Note: Exceptions will be made for members who are in hospice care or have a cancer or sickle cell disease diagnosis requiring pain management.

New prescriptions / New starts			
Stage	Date the change starts	Dosing limit	Day supply limit
New starts	March 1, 2020	No more than 120 MME*	A single prescription or combination of prescriptions which exceed a cumulative MME dose of ≥ 120 mg per day will require prior authorization.

Dosing limits for members currently prescribed Opioids			
Stage	Date the change starts	Dosing limit	Day supply limit
1	March 1, 2020	No more than 120 MME	Grandfathering period begins
2	June 1, 2020	No more than 120MME	Grandfathering period ends. A single prescription or combination of prescriptions which exceed a cumulative MME dose of ≥ 120 mg per day will require prior authorization.

If you have any questions, please contact your Blue Cross Complete provider account executive, Blue Cross Complete Provider Inquiry at **1-888-312-5713** or PerformRx Provider Services at **1-888-989-0057**.

*CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. (August 28, 2019). Retrieved November 14, 2019 from www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html**

**** Our website is mbluecrosscomplete.com. While website addresses for other organizations are provided for reference, Blue Cross Complete does not control these sites and is not responsible for their content.**