

**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES**

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

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December 3, 2018

**ATTENTION: South Dakota Medicaid Pharmacies**

**FROM: South Dakota Medicaid**

**RE: Opioid Prescription Changes**

Dear South Dakota Medicaid Providers:

In conjunction with the South Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, the South Dakota Medicaid (Medicaid) prescription drug benefit is implementing several changes to the prescription benefit regarding coverage of opioid prescriptions. These changes are being made to align with best practices in opioid management and to reduce the risk of opioid addiction and misuse.

Please note that implementation of the following changes is staggered. Communications related to these changes is available here: <https://dss.sd.gov/medicaid/providers/communication.aspx> Please take note of future coverage changes in order to prepare your internal processes and your South Dakota Medicaid patients for the changes to coverage. These requirements affect outpatient prescriptions filled at a pharmacy. These changes will include:

**1. Early Refill Threshold for Controlled Substances**

- Implemented June 1, 2018

**2. Prior Authorization for One Long Acting and One Short Acting Opioid Product**

- Implemented August 1, 2018

**3. Opioid Naïve Limit**

- Implemented August 1, 2018

**4. Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED) Maximum Prior Authorization**

- Medicaid patients requiring a new or renewal prescription for morphine equivalent dosing greater than 220 MEDs per day will require prior authorization. Claims without prior authorization will be denied.
- Implementation is targeted for January 1, 2019.
- For both new or renewal prescriptions and those in place prior to January 1, 2019, the MED threshold will decrease by approximately 10% each month until the target MED is reached. South Dakota Medicaid will utilize the following tapering schedule:

January 1, 2019: 220 MEDs

February 1, 2019: 200 MEDs

March 1, 2019: 180 MEDs

The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor's Drive, Pierre SD 57501, 605-773-3305.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).

April 1, 2019:	160 MEDs
May 1, 2019:	140 MEDs
June 1, 2019:	130 MEDs
July 1, 2019:	120 MEDs
August 1, 2019:	110 MEDs
September 1, 2019:	100 MEDs
October 1, 2019:	90 MEDs

- The target is in alignment with CDC recommended maximum MED levels and the tapering schedule approximates a 10% MED reduction each month in line with the CDC recommendations for tapering.
- South Dakota Medicaid encourages providers with patients on high doses of opioids to begin tapering patients *in advance* of implementation in order to allow for the maximum amount of time to taper patients.

Patients with a documented diagnosis of cancer or terminal illness may receive an automatic prior authorization (PA). Prescriptions for patients not meeting these criteria may be denied for PA. For patients who are initially denied a PA the prescriber's office may submit additional information supporting the request. Examples of supporting documentation include: qualifying diagnosis if it was recently determined, journal articles supporting the requested use or dose, evidence of tapering attempts and failures, alternative treatments tried and failed, etc. PAs and subsequent appeals are handled by OptumRx. PA forms may be found at

[https://prdgov-rxadmin.optum.com/rxadmin/SDM/Prior\\_authorization.html](https://prdgov-rxadmin.optum.com/rxadmin/SDM/Prior_authorization.html)

Resources are available through the Division of Behavioral Health for patients that providers may suspect or have strong inclination of substance use issues and/or abuse. The Division of Behavioral Health maintains an interactive map at: <http://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/agencycounty.aspx> to identify accredited treatment providers across the state. In addition, resources can also be located at: <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>.

South Dakota Medicaid's coverage includes treatment for substance use disorders including medication-assisted treatment (MAT). MAT combines FDA approved medications with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders. A combination of medication and behavioral therapies is effective in the treatment of substance use disorders, and can help sustain recovery.

For more detailed opioid prescribing guidelines please review the document published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>

South Dakota Medicaid expects providers to utilize the South Dakota Prescription Drug Monitoring (PDMP) program to guard against opiate misuse. You can access the PDMP at the website

<https://southdakota.pmpaware.net/login>

Thank you,

South Dakota Medicaid