

Talking points for Advanced Opioid Management Program effective March 1, 2018

Advanced Opioid Management Program beginning March 1, 2018

- The opioid epidemic has become a major focus in the United States, as opioid use and associated hospitalizations and deaths are higher than anywhere else in the world. Beginning March 1, 2018, a new opioid program will be implemented for the State Health Plan (commercial plan only).
- This program will not impact Medicare Part D (EGWP) members. Medicare has an existing opioid management program in place for this population.
- The program will limit new prescriptions for opioids to a five-day supply to help combat the opioid epidemic.
- This will only impact members with no opioids in their prescription history in the last 130 days.

What does this mean for State Health Plan-Commercial Plan members?

- Beginning March 1, 2018, a new opioid program will limit new members, meaning those individuals who do not have an opioid in their prescription history in the last 130 days, to a five-day supply. This will not impact existing opioid users.
- The program will exclude members under cancer/palliative care. At this time, cancer patients will be identified through prescribed medications used for cancer treatment to allow for proactive identification of cancer diagnosis.
- Because of the nature of each component of the program, there are some cases where it is appropriate to include opioid-dependence treatment medications (Suboxone®, Subutex®, etc.) and others where it is not. For example, we do not want to place a supply limit on an initial fill on a product used to treat opioid dependence. However, if a member is taking a medication for opioid dependence along with opioids, we will notify the prescriber(s), edit on cumulative morphine equivalent dose and review from a fraud, waste and abuse perspective. The checklist below highlights which components include opioid-dependence treatment products and which do not.

	Includes opioid-dependence treatment products	Does not include opioid-dependence treatment products
Five-day supply limit on initial fill		✓
Prior authorization on long-acting opioids		✓
Proactive member education (non-customizable letters)		✓
Therapeutic Resource Center® neuroscience pharmacist education		✓
Physician care alerts	✓	
Morphine equivalent dose edit	✓	
Drug deactivation disposal bag		✓
Enhanced Fraud, Waste & Abuse program	✓	