



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Bureau of Health Services Financing

MEMORANDUM

DATE: May 5, 2017

TO: Louisiana Medicaid Pharmacy Providers

FROM: Jen Steele, Medicaid Director

SUBJECT: Louisiana Medicaid Morphine Milligram Equivalence (MME) Limit

Fee for Service (FFS), also known as Legacy Medicaid, and the five Medicaid Managed Care Organization (MCO) plans have implemented an educational alert for recipient's whose active opioid prescriptions exceed a daily limit of 120 Morphine Milligram Equivalence (MME) on May 1, 2017. This edit will change to a denial on July 10, 2017.

Prescribers should be encouraged to taper an opioid dose to less than 120 MME per day when appropriate. If a claim denies and tapering is not an option, then the provider should request an override through the prior authorization department utilizing the *Opioid Analgesic Treatment Worksheet* that will be modified to accommodate all opioid overrides. This form is common to all Medicaid plans, FFS and the MCO plans.

The message that is conveyed to recipients is extremely important. Pharmacists, who are the forefront of recipient understanding and care, need to deliver a consistent and appropriate message to recipients. Recipients should know that edits such as these are implemented to ensure appropriate and medically necessary utilization of opioids while decreasing the risk of overutilization and diversion. The override process is established to ensure access to medically necessary doses of opioids for recipients who need them.

Recipients with cancer or are in palliative care will not be subject to the edit when the appropriate diagnosis code below is entered and documented. The appropriate diagnosis codes which bypass the 120 MME per day limit are:

Diagnosis	ICD-10-CM Diagnosis Code
Cancer	C00.*-C96.*
Palliative Care	Z51.5

*Any number or letter or combination of UP TO FOUR numbers and letters of an assigned ICD-10-CM diagnosis code.

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Please forward this notice to other pharmacy providers to assist with notification. The Department's ultimate goal is to ensure appropriate and medically necessary utilization of opioids while decreasing the risk of overutilization and diversion.

Your continued support of the Louisiana Medicaid Program efforts to coordinate care and improve health is greatly appreciated.

JS/MBW/ESF

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans
 Melwyn B. Wendt