



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

MEMORANDUM

DATE: April 25, 2017

TO: All Louisiana Medicaid Providers

FROM: Dr. SreyRam Kuy, Medicaid Chief Medical Officer
Jen Steele, Medicaid Director

SUBJECT: Louisiana Fee-for-Service (FFS) Medicaid Educational Alert for Morphine Milligram Equivalence (MME) Limit at Point of Sale (POS)

Effective May 1, 2017, the Louisiana Department of Health Pharmacy Program in conjunction with the Louisiana Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Board will issue an educational alert at Point of Sale (POS) for pharmacy claims exceeding the established Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED). Opioid prescription drugs will be converted to a Morphine Milligram Equivalence (MME). Opioid products will be subject to a daily limit 120 MME per day. In addition, the recipient's opioid claim history will be subject to a cumulative limit of opioid therapy of 3600 MME per rolling 30 days.

The appropriate diagnosis codes which will bypass the 120 MME/day limit are listed in the chart below.

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

Pharmacy claims submitted without a bypass diagnosis code and exceeding the 120 MME/day limit will trigger the following educational alert at POS:

Exceeds Maximum Morphine Equivalent – 120 MME per day

This edit will occur at POS and is an educational alert at this time. The purpose of the educational alert is to inform providers of the upcoming MME policy and provide identification at POS of recipients who may be affected. Override provisions are not necessary for an educational alert.

Effective July 10, 2017, this educational alert will turn into a denial at Point of Sale. Prior to the educational alert being turned off, providers will be notified of the policy activation.

Please forward this notice to other 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 cooperation and support of the Louisiana Medicaid Program efforts to coordinate care and improve health are greatly appreciated.

If you have questions about the contents of this memo, you may contact the Molina Point of Sale (POS) Help Desk (800) 648-0790 or Fee for Service (FFS) Pharmacy Help Desk at (800) 437-9101 or refer to www.lamedicaid.com.

SK/MBW/GJS

c: Healthy Louisiana Plans
Melwyn B. Wendt
Molina