



Prior Authorization Requirements on Long-Acting Opioids

Applies to select OptumRx Commercial clients

Effective 1/1/2018, select OptumRx commercial clients now **require prior authorization for long-acting opioids**. This is to align with recent Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines on safe and appropriate opioid use. Long-acting opioids should be reserved for members who require chronic (greater than 3 months duration of therapy) and around-the-clock pain management – but never as initial therapy for members new to treatment.

(1) Prior authorization (PA) – Required for all long-acting opioids, including new starts. Also required to step through a short-acting agent beginning 01/1/18

- Long-acting opioid claims reject with the following message:
 - Reject 75 - "Prior Authorization Required"
 - Please Note: Edits will first screen the past 365 days of a member's profile for oncology drugs and will not initiate prior authorization if one is found

(2) Maximum daily dose quantity limits on all long-acting opioids (already in effect)

- If claims reject for excessive quantity, the following message displays:
 - Reject 76 - "Plan Limitations Exceeded"