

Quantity Limit Changes on Short Acting Opioids (Select Commercial Clients) Prescriber Education

Beginning July 1, 2017, as part of the standard OptumRx formulary update process, select commercial clients with members utilizing brand or generic short acting opioid medications will be subject to the following quantity limit changes.

Changes align with updated Centers for Disease Control (CDC) guidelines and clinically-based prescribing habits on the number of Morphine Milligram Equivalents (MME) a member can receive at any given time. There will be separate limits for members who are new to therapy and members who are existing users of opioids, as outlined below.

New to Therapy Member Limits on Short Acting Opioids

Members naïve to opioid therapy (no opioid in their most recent 120-day claims history) will be limited to a maximum of 49 morphine-milligram equivalents (MME) per day; up to two 7-day supplies within a 60-day timeframe.

Treatment Experienced Member Limits on Short Acting Opioids

Members NOT new to therapy (have filled opioids in their most recent 120-day claims history) will be limited to a maximum of 90 morphine-milligram equivalents (MME) per day and subject to two fills within a 60-day timeframe.

Edits will first screen the past 360 days of a member's profile for oncology drugs and will not initiate quantity limit if one is found.

Commonly Prescribed Short Acting Opioids and Maximum Fill Limits

Brand Name	Drug Label Name	Morphine Equivalent Dose of 49 mg Units/Day	Morphine Equivalent Dose of 90 mg Units/Day
ROXICODONE	OXYCODONE TAB 30MG	1	2
PERCOCET, ENDOCET	OXYCOD/APAP TAB 10-325MG	3	6
LORTAB, LORCET, NORCO	HYDROCO/APAP TAB 10-325MG	4	9
LORTAB, LORCET, NORCO	HYDROCO/APAP TAB 5-325MG	9	12
PERCOCET, ENDOCET	OXYCOD/APAP TAB 5-325MG	6	12

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When these edits are encountered

Pharmacies and prescribers should follow applicable federal or state dispensing guidelines for dispensing controlled substances.

Specific to CII dispensing, either:

- Cut back the quantity to the limit permitted, cancelling the remainder of the units on the script OR
- Dispense an emergency 1-2 day supply, while PA is sought for the higher volume if justified

Prior Authorization may be pursued if clinically necessary

Additional treatment/increased quantities will be approved when the following criteria are met:

1. One of the following:

1.1. Diagnosis of Cancer OR

1.2. Patient is receiving opioids as part of end of life care OR

1.3. All of the following:

1.3.1. The prescriber certifies that there is an active treatment plan that includes but is not limited to a specific treatment objective and use of other pharmacological and

non-pharmacological agents for pain relief as appropriate AND

1.3.2. The prescriber certifies that there has been an informed consent document signed and an addiction risk assessment has been performed AND

1.3.3. The prescriber certifies that a written/signed agreement between prescriber and patient addressing issues of prescription management, diversion, and the use of other substances exists

Additional Opioid Professional Health Care Resources

- **Assessing Patient Risk**
 - [Opioid Risk Tool](#)
 - [Drug Abuse Screening Test: DAST - 10](#)
- **Ensuring Patient Understanding/Acceptance of Opioid Risks**
 - [Patient Agreement Form](#)
- **Non-opioid Chronic Pain Treatments**
 - [Safer Alternatives](#)

Quantity Limit Changes on Short Acting Opioids (Select Commercial Clients) Prescriber Education

- **Opioid Storage and Disposal**
 - [Safe Storage and Disposal](#)
- **Tapering Opioids for Chronic Pain**
 - [Pocket Guide](#)
- **Medication Assisted Therapy (MAT)**
 - [Addressing Addiction – MAT Overview](#)
- **Patient Resources**
 - [Prescription Opioids: What You Need to Know](#)
 - [Patient Information Guide: Long-term Opioid Use for Chronic Pain](#)
 - [Facts about Buprenorphine for Treatment of Opioid Addiction](#)
 - [Safe Use, Storage and Disposal of Opioid Drugs](#)
- **Continuing Education**
 - [Opioid and Pain Management Continuing Education](#)
 - [Scope of Pain Training](#)
 - [Opioid Issues Continuing Education Module](#)
- **Guideline Resources**
 - [Clinical Tools](#)
- **Initiative of the Surgeon General of the United States**
 - [Take the Pledge](#)