

PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

PROVIDER INFORMATION



September 24, 2018

Universal Pharmacy Policy for Minnesota Health Care Programs (MHCP) Subscribers – Immediate Release and Extended Release Opioids Initial Fill Limit

Background

In 2014, Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) along with pharmacy policy experts from the Minnesota Department of Human Services (DHS), HealthPartners, Hennepin Health, IMCare, Medica, PrimeWest Health, South Country Health Alliance, and UCare formed the Universal Pharmacy Policy Workgroup.

Universal Pharmacy Policy Workgroup (UPPW)

Members of the UPPW include state licensed pharmacists and physicians, as well as individuals with significant pharmacy policy expertise. The UPPW meets once a month to develop Universal Pharmacy Policy (UPP) for high risk and controlled substance medications. The UPPW sets the minimum formulary requirements for contracted health plans serving the MHCP population in order to bring consistent application of protocols for these Subscribers.

Products Impacted

This notice applies to the following Minnesota Health Care Programs:

- Prepaid Medical Assistance Program (PMAP)
- MinnesotaCare (MNCare)
- Minnesota Senior Care Plus (MSC+)

Contractual Requirement for Health Plans

To achieve compliance with the UPP provisions, **effective November 1, 2018**, Blue Cross shall adopt the following requirement for opioid medications as recommended by the UPPW:

All immediate release opioids and extended release opioids will be limited to a 7-day supply for opioid naive patients. After a fill of a 7-days' supply or less, subsequent opioid prescriptions will process without the restriction. If the patient has a prescription history of an opioid or oncology medication in the past 120 days with the same Blue Cross plan, the opioid prescription will not be subjected to this initial fill limitation.

What Action may be Required?

If a provider writes a prescription for an immediate release or extended release opioid for greater than a 7-day supply on the first fill for an opioid naive patient, the prescription claim will reject at the pharmacy point-of-sale with the following message and additional action may be needed.

- NCPDP Reject Code 76: **NEW TO THERAPY MAX 7 DAYS SUPPLY**

Should the prescription claim reject with the above message, the pharmacy will inform the patient that the initial fill must be limited to a 7-day supply.

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If the patient is agreeable to this limitation, the pharmacy should reprocess the claim with the appropriate quantity for a 7-day supply. If the patient wants to obtain the entire quantity of the prescription for the initial fill, a quantity exception request will be required.

Any existing maximum daily quantity limits also will still apply. Note that this policy does not restrict a pharmacist's ability to partially fill a C-II controlled substance, subject to state law.

Questions?

If you have questions, please contact provider services at **(651) 662-5200** or **1-800-262-0820**.