

# PROVIDER QUICK POINTS

## PROVIDER INFORMATION



December 12, 2018

### **Pharmacy Update - Medicare Part D Opioid Drug Management Programs**

Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota and Blue Plus (Blue Cross) is committed to providing subscribers with safe, quality, pharmacy care.

**Effective January 1, 2019**, as directed by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS), new policies for Medicare drug plans aim to identify and manage potential opioid overutilization in the Medicare Part D population. This program will consist of improved safety alerts when opioid prescriptions are dispensed at the pharmacy, and drug management programs to better coordinate care when chronic high-risk opioid use is present. The criteria used to identify potentially at-risk beneficiaries for drug management programs or point-of-sale edits are not intended as prescribing limits.

#### **7 Day Supply Limit for Opioid Covered Persons**

The Opioid 7-day supply hard safety edit limits the initial dispensing to a supply of 7 days or less for opioid naïve Covered Persons. Opioid naïve is defined as a lack of any opioid prescriptions (long-acting or short-acting) within our claims system in the previous 90 days.

There are a number of exceptions to the 7-day supply limit, including, but not limited to, cancer- or sickle cell disease-related pain, long-term care and/or hospice patients.

For prescriptions written for more than 7 days, the Covered Person's Prescribing Provider may submit a Prior Authorization request to have the clinical circumstances reviewed.

#### **Opioid Care Coordination Alert**

The Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) cDUR Hard Edit calculates cumulative daily MME across the submitted claim and selected historical claims. The edit includes thresholds for maximum number of Prescribing Providers and maximum number of pharmacies, which must be exceeded for potential drug misuse to be reported.

If submitting a prescription for a Covered Person whose calculated daily MME is 90 mg or more and the Covered Person has utilization from more than two pharmacies and two Prescribing Providers; the claim will reject and request the dispensing pharmacist to consult with the Prescribing Provider to determine if the prescription is appropriate.

Blue Cross expects network prescribers and on-call staff to respond to outreach related to opioid safety alerts from pharmacies and Prime Therapeutics in a timely manner.

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QP107-18

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## **Products Impacted**

This PA program applies to the following Medicare plans:

- Platinum Blue (Cost)
- Medicare Advantage (PPO)
- Strive Medicare Advantage (HMO-POS)
- SecureBlue (HMO-SNP)

## **CoverMyMeds prior authorization request service**

Prescribers can submit ePA drug requests for Blue Cross subscribers who have pharmacy benefits through Blue Cross by either submitting a request through CoverMyMeds's (CMM) free web portal or by sending an electronic NCPDP file to Prime through an integrated Electronic Medical Record (EMR) system during the e-prescribing process.

- To access CMM, go to [www.covermymeds.com](http://www.covermymeds.com)
- The first time you use the portal to submit a PA, you will need to create a CMM account.
- For help using the CMM site select Support (top of the web page) to view FAQs, CMM physician training webinar offerings, and support options to help you get started.

## **Questions?**

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