



February 28, 2018

TO: MO HealthNet Prescribers

RE: MO HealthNet Opioid Prescription Intervention (OPI) Program Changes

The MO HealthNet Opioid Prescription Intervention (OPI) Program has provided clinical advisory mailings to prescribers caring for MO HealthNet participants since 2010. The program involves selected evidence-based, best practice Quality Indicators™ (QI's) applied to MO HealthNet pharmacy and medical claims data to generate a customized packet of information to providers regarding their prescribing activity. We know providers have used this information to update their prescribing practices and improve care to our MO HealthNet participants.

Effective March 1, 2018 the Department of Social Services – MO HealthNet Division (MHD) will begin working collaboratively with the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health and Senior Services to enhance our interactions with providers and accelerate the goals of the OPI Program. The following are important changes that will affect providers who prescribe opioids for MO HealthNet participants:

1. Adherence to CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

MO HealthNet has developed clinical policy based on best practices, including the CDC 2016 Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. Clinical Edits in the Pharmacy Program currently reflect these recommendations and will be enforced in future updates. A factsheet version of the CDC Guidelines is provided with this mailing and the complete document may be referenced at the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm>

2. UPDATED and NEW OPI Quality Indicators™

The OPI Program will continue to provide an individualized mailing packet for providers whose prescribing activity results in flagging one or more Quality Indicators™ (QI's). The list of QI's has been revised and prioritized by MO HealthNet; additional QI's added at a future date. Providers will need to carefully review their OPI mailing packet for changes to the QI's.

3. Provider Response and Feedback

MO HealthNet is establishing a higher expectation for provider response, documentation, and engagement regarding prescribing activity identified through the OPI mailing process. Providers should make use of the new Feedback Form provided with the OPI mailing packets to facilitate communication with MO HealthNet regarding patients in their OPI report. The Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance (MMAC) Unit will be the contact for provider communications and feedback. Particular QI's may receive a higher priority for additional provider follow-up. MMAC will engage providers who do not provide responses to future OPI mailings.

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4. Implementation of Updated and New Opioid Clinical Edits

Effective March 6, 2018 enhanced Opioid Clinical Edits will be implemented in the Pharmacy Program. The edits, based on CDC Opioid Guidelines, will deny pharmacy claims based on clinical criteria consistent with the QI's identified in the OPI mailing program. A Morphine-Milligram-Equivalent (MME) Accumulation Edit is planned for a May 1, 2018 implementation and will more accurately identify total MME daily dosing and the risk of harm from overdose. For MO HealthNet participants requiring opioid therapy exceeding the criteria established in these Clinical Edits, providers will need to obtain prior authorization.

The State collaborative agencies are charged with protecting the health and safety of Missouri families and communities. We appreciate the service you provide to our MO HealthNet participants and the citizens of Missouri. We intend to work more closely with the provider community to provide the best care possible.

Steve Corsi, Psy.D.
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Randall Williams, MD
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Director
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