Louisiana Department of Health
Health Plan Advisory 16-35
Revised February 2, 2017

Opioid Edits for Pharmacy Claims

In response to the opioid epidemic, the Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is implementing targeted opioid quantity limits for pharmacy claims.

On Jan. 10, 2017, opioid quantity limits were implemented in Fee for Service Medicaid for all recipients. Prescribers were alerted to quantity limit proposals before implementation.

Effective March 22, 2017, LDH will implement quantity limits for opioid *naïve* recipients enrolled in Healthy Louisiana managed care organizations (MCO). MCOs are directed to implement the following opioid quantity limits at the Point of Sale (POS) on March 22 for opioid **naïve** recipients (no opioids in the most current 90-day period). Override provisions must be implemented to allow for medically necessary quantities above limits.

To mitigate administrative burden for prescribing providers, LDH is mandating the use of a standardized *Opioid Analgesic Treatment Worksheet* to request overrides and prior authorizations for medically necessary quantities of opioids in excess of the following limits.

Opioid Quantity Limits, Units per 30 day period			
Description	**Dosage Form**	**Units / 30 rolling days**	**Representative Brand**
Hydrocodone Bitartrate	Capsule ER 12 hr	**30 units**	Zohydro ER®
Hydrocodone/Ibuprofen	Tablet	**30 units**	Vicoprofen®
Hydrocodone Bitartrate	Tablet ER 24 hr	**15 units**	Hysingla ER®
Hydrocodone/Acetaminophen	Short Acting Tablet/Capsule	**45 units**	Lortab®, Vicodin®
Hydromorphone HCl	Short Acting Tablet	**45 units**	Dilaudid®
Hydromorphone HCl	Tablet ER 24 hr	**15 units**	Exalgo®
Meperidine	Tablet	**45 units**	Demerol®
Methadone	Tablet	**45 units**	

Morphine Sulfate	Tablet	**45 units**	
Morphine Sulfate	Capsule ER 24 hr	**15 units**	Avinza®
Morphine Sulfate	Capsule SR Pellet, Tablet SA	**30 units**	Kadian®, MS Contin®
Morphine Sulfate/Naltrexone	Capsule SR Pellet	**30 units**	Embeda®
Oxycodone HCl, Oxycodone, Oxycodone/Acetaminophen	Tablet SR 12 hr Capsule ER 12 hr Tablet ER 12 hr	**30 units**	Oxycontin®, Xtampza ER®, Xartemis XR®
Oxycodone HCl, Oxycodone/Acetaminophen, Oxycodone/Aspirin	Tablet/Capsule	**45 units**	Roxicodone®, Endocet®, Percocet®, Roxicet®
Oxycodone/Ibuprofen	Tablet	**14 units**	
Oxymorphone HCl	Tablet	**45 units**	Opana®
Oxymorphone HCl	Tablet SR 12 hr	**30 units**	Opana ER®
Tapentadol	Tablet	**45 units**	Nucynta®
Tapentadol	Tablet ER 12 hr	**30 units**	Nucynta ER®
Tramadol HCl	Tablet	**45 units**	Ultram®
Tramadol HCl	Tablet ER 24 hr Capsule ER 24 hr	**15 units**	Ultram ER® ConZip®
Tramadol/Acetaminophen	Tablet	**40 units**	Ultracet®

Quantity Limits: Fentanyl Products, Units within a 30 day period					
Description	**Dosage Form**	**Route**	**Units**	**Limit**	**Representative Brand**
Fentanyl	Patch 12, 25, 50 mcg/hr.	Transdermal	**10 units**	**30 days**	Duragesic®
Fentanyl	Patch 75, 100 mcg/hr	Transdermal	**20 units**	**30 days**	Duragesic®

Quantity Limits: <u>Only</u> payable for Cancer Diagnosis (C00.*-C98.*)					
Fentanyl Citrate Immediate Release	Tablet Sublingual, Lozenge HD, Tab	Sublingual, Buccal	120 units	30 days	Abstral®, Actiq®, Fentora®, Onsolis®

	Effervescence, Film				

Dose Limits: Buprenorphine transdermal		
Description	**Units / Limit**	**Sample Brand Name**
Buprenorphine Transdermal Patches	20 mcg/hr (480 mcg/24 hr). Each buprenorphine patch is intended to be worn for 7 days.	Butrans®

Note: Some opioid agents are not indicated for use in opioid naïve recipients. Please consult prescribing information.

In addition to the use of a standard form, LDH is also requiring MCOs to implement Point of Sale overrides to eliminate the need for prescribing providers to submit Prior Authorizations requests for exemption to these quantity limits for select medical conditions. Pharmacy claims for all opioids except fentanyl immediate release should process at Point of Sale when the pharmacist enters appropriate diagnosis codes for the conditions listed below.

Diagnosis Code	**Description**
C00.*-C96.*	Cancer
Z51.5	Palliative Care
* - any number or letter or combination of UP TO FOUR numbers and letters of an assigned ICD-10-CM diagnosis code	

Provider education on prescribing opioids is encouraged through the MCO Drug Utilization Review process, or any other avenue available. The Department is working on developing online resources for providers.

Please communicate any concerns with this policy to the LDH pharmacy unit.