

Dear Member:

In compliance with the Center for Medicare and Medicaid's (CMS) Medicare Part D Opioid Management Program guidelines and requirements, Doctors Health Care Plans, Inc., has implemented certain limits for members' prescriptions for opioid medications. This Drug Management Program is meant to promote safe, responsible, and appropriate opioid use for our members and will be conducted through close collaboration with the members' opioid prescribers and pharmacists.

For 2021, in order to prevent and combat opioid overuse, a pharmacist will be contacting your opioid prescriber if you meet the following criteria:

- *Opioid naïve patients (have never been prescribed an opioid medication) will not be allowed to receive more than a 7 days' supply.*
- *≥ 90 MME* per day and ≥3 distinct opioid prescribers*
- *≥ 200 MME* per day and ≥3 distinct opioid prescribers*
- *duplicative opioid therapy (more than one of the same opioid medications being prescribed together)*
- *use of opioids and benzodiazepines together*

Residents of long-term care facilities, those in hospice care, patients receiving palliative or end-of-life care, patients being treated for active cancer-related pain and patients with sickle cell disease are exempt from these safety edits.

In addition, a member will be considered "at-risk" if they meet the following criteria, and the prescribing physician will be contacted by a case manager and/or clinical pharmacist.

- *Average daily morphine milligram equivalent (MME*) ≥ 90 mg*
- *≥3 distinct opioid pharmacies*
- *≥3 distinct opioid prescribers*

OR

- *Average daily morphine milligram equivalent (MME*) ≥ 90 mg*
- *≥5 distinct opioid prescribers (regardless of the number of opioid dispensing pharmacies)*

Additional members may be identified based on multiple providers, multiple pharmacies, and/or MME that may not meet CMS' criteria. Please be assured that criteria used to identify potentially at-risk members are not intended as prescribing limits.

***Morphine milligram equivalent (MME)** – The amount of milligrams of morphine an opioid dose is equal to when prescribed. This is how to calculate the total amount of opioids, accounting for differences in opioid drug type and strength.

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ATENCIÓN: Si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 786-460-3427 o 833-342-7463(TTY: 711)