

September 2017

Potential high-dose opioid overutilization safety concerns

Effective July 10, 2017, the state of Louisiana will implement a maximum of 120 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) per day for members receiving short-acting and long-acting opioids given separately or together. This applies whether the opioids are given from the same prescriber or different prescribers. Prior authorization utilizing the *Opioid Analgesic Treatment Worksheet* will be required for doses greater than 120 MME per day.

In accordance with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, opioids are not first-line therapy for chronic pain outside of active cancer treatment, palliative care and end-of-life care. Evidence suggests that nonopioid treatments including nonopioid medications and nonpharmacological therapies can provide relief to those suffering from chronic pain. Studies also suggest that these treatments are safer.

This advance notice of implementation is given to encourage you to begin opioid downward titration now for chronic pain patients to less than a total of 120 MME per day to avoid opioid claims rejecting at the point of sale on or after the implementation date. These claims will reject with code 75 (prior authorization required). The prior authorization form (*Opioid Analgesic Treatment Worksheet*) can be found online at

https://providers.amerigroup.com/ProviderDocuments/LALA_CAID_OpioidAnalgesicTreatmentWorksheet.pdf.

We strongly encourage using the opioid dose calculator when considering prescribing medications for your patients:

https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating_total_daily_dose-a.pdf.

If you have questions regarding this information, please contact the Pharmacy department at **1-800-454-3730**.

If you have questions about this communication, received this fax in error or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services toll free at **1-800-454-3730**.

The information in this bulletin may be an update or change to your provider manual. Find the most current manual at:

<https://providers.healthybluela.com>

Healthy Blue is the trade name of Community Care Health Plan of Louisiana, Inc., an independent licensee of the Blue Cross and Blue Shield Association.

BLAPEC-0011-17 August 2017

