

## Opioids

Therapeutic Class: Opioids

Last Reviewed by the DUR Board: October 27, 2016

Opioids are subject to prior authorization and quantity limitations based on the Application of Standards in Section 1927 of the SSA and/or approved by the DUR Board. Refer to the Nevada Medicaid and Check Up Pharmacy Manual for specific quantity limits.

### 1. Coverage and Limitations

#### a. Opioids will be covered without Prior Authorization (PA):

1. For initial prescriptions of seven days or less; and
2. For a total of 13 seven-day prescriptions in any rolling 12 month period; and
3. For prescriptions of 60 mg morphine equivalents or less per day.

b. Recipients currently on chronic opioid medications will not be subject to the seven-day requirement for an opioid(s) they have been receiving in the past 45 days.

c. Prior Authorization Criteria: To exceed the number of seven-day prescriptions, or to exceed the seven-day limit, or to exceed the 60 mg morphine equivalents or less per day:

#### 1. All of the following criteria must be met and documented:

- a. The recipient has chronic pain or requires an extended opioid therapy and is under the supervision of a licensed prescriber; and
- b. Pain cannot be controlled through the use of non-opioid therapy (acetaminophen, NSAIDs, antidepressants, anti-seizure medications, physical therapy, etc.); and
- c. The lowest effective dose is being requested; and
- d. A pain contract is on file.

#### d. Exceptions to this policy:

1. Recipients with cancer/malignancy related pain; or
2. Recipients who are post-surgery with an anticipated prolonged recovery (greater than three months); or
3. Recipients receiving palliative care; or
4. Recipients residing in a long-term care facility; or
5. Recipients receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS; or
6. Prescriptions written by or in consultation with a pain specialist.

### 2. Prior Authorization Guidelines

a. Prior Authorization approval will be for one year.

b. Prior Authorization forms are available at:

<http://www.medicaid.nv.gov/providers/rx/rxforms.aspx>

3. CDC Guidance:

- a. <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>.