

Protocol for the Safe and Efficient Use of Opioids

Approved October 2018

Exclusions

Cancer patients
Sickle cell patients
Hospice patients
Palliative or end of life care

All prescriptions for opioids will be approved based on the following criteria:

Short-acting opioids (SAOs)

1. All SAOs for acute pain (e.g. injury, minor surgery, dental procedure) in opioid naïve patients (defined as no opioid therapy in the previous 90 days) is limited to 5 days' supply
2. Daily dose is not greater than **50 morphine milligram equivalents (MME)** for an opioid naïve patient or greater than 90 MME for an opioid tolerant patient. [medical necessity/rationale will be required]
3. Patient is being treated for moderate to severe pain (documentation associated with diagnosis/rationale will be required)
4. Patient has tried and failed or has an intolerance or contraindication to non-opioid analgesics (such as non-steroidal [NSAIDs], acetaminophen, anticonvulsants, antidepressants, etc.) [documentation will be required]
5. Patient is maintained on no more than two SAOs
6. Provider has checked the state's Prescription Monitoring Program/Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for any opioid over dosages, or dangerous combinations, and for prescriptions from other providers, benzodiazepine use, or extended release/long acting use for acute pain
7. Naloxone prescription is provided or offered to patient/patient's family or caretaker for opioid/benzodiazepine combinations

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Long-acting opioids (LAOs)

1. Patient is currently on a short-acting opioid analgesic, including use of opioid analgesia as an inpatient for post-surgical pain; **OR**
2. Patient is transitioning from one long-acting opioid analgesic to another
3. Daily dose is not greater than **50 morphine milligram equivalents (MME)** for an opioid naïve patient or greater than 90 MME for an opioid tolerant patient. [medical necessity/rationale will be required]
4. Patient is being treated for moderate to severe pain (documentation associated with diagnosis/rationale will be required)
5. Patient does not have any of the following:
 - a. Significant respiratory depression
 - b. Acute or severe bronchial asthma or hypercarbia
 - c. Known or suspected paralytic ileus
6. LAOs are not used in as needed (PRN) analgesia
7. Patient is maintained on no more than two LAOs
8. Provider has checked the state's Prescription Monitoring Program/Prescription Drug Monitoring Program for any opioid over dosages or dangerous combinations, and for prescriptions from other providers, benzodiazepine use, or extended release/long acting use for acute pain
9. For oxymorphone Extended Release:
 - a) Member had inadequate response or intolerance to at least 2 formulary long-acting opioids (fentanyl patch, morphine sulfate extended release, or methadone); trials of formulary agents were for at least 2 weeks
10. For non-formulary agents, member had inadequate response or intolerance to oxymorphone extended release, and at least 2 formulary long-acting opioids for at least 2 weeks (fentanyl patch, morphine sulfate extended release, or methadone)
9. Naloxone prescription is provided or offered to patient/patient's family or caretaker for opioid/benzodiazepine combinations

References:

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3. Chung JW, Zeng Y, Wong TK. Drug therapy for the treatment of chronic nonspecific low back pain: systematic review and meta-analysis. Pain Physician 2013; 16(6): E685-704
4. Gandam VH, Chauhan G et al. Association between concurrent use of prescription opioids and benzodiazepines and overdose: retrospective analysis; BMJ 2017; 356 doi: <https://doi.org/10.1136/bmj.j760>
5. Coffin P, Behar E et al. Nonrandomized Intervention Study of Naloxone Coprescription for Primary Care Patients Receiving Long-Term Opioid Therapy for Pain. Ann Intern Med. 2016;165(4):245-252
6. CDC. CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain-United States, 2016. Recommendations and Reports/March 18, 2016/65(1) 1-49. <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm> accessed 6/4/2018 and erratum published March 25, 2016. https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/wr/mm6511a6.htm?s_cid=mm6511a6_w.htm accessed 6/4/2018

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