Drug/Drug Class: Morphine Milligram Equivalent Accumulation Clinical Edit

First Implementation Date: May 1, 2018

Revised Date: May 21, 2020

Prepared for: MO HealthNet

Prepared by: MO HealthNet/Conduent

Criteria Status: ☒ Existing Criteria
☐ Revision of Existing Criteria
☐ New Criteria

Executive Summary

Purpose: Monitor and ensure appropriate cumulative levels of morphine milligram equivalents in opioid therapy

Why Issue Selected: Opioids are substances that act on opioid receptors to produce morphine-like effects. Medically they are primarily used for pain relief, including anesthesia. In 2017, the President declared the opioid crisis a national public health emergency. In 2015, there were more than 33,000 reported opioid-involved overdose deaths. In 2016, the CDC published a set of guidelines for prescribing opioids for chronic pain; further clarification of these guidelines was published in April 2019. The US Department of Health and Human Services also published recommendations for pain management in May 2019. MO HealthNet is using these guidelines as a basis for clinical edits meant to reduce the risk of dependence, misuse, overdose and death.

Type of Criteria: ☒ Increased risk of ADE
☐ Preferred Drug List
☐ Appropriate Indications
☒ Clinical Edit

Data Sources: ☒ Only Administrative Databases
☐ Databases + Prescriber-Supplied

Setting & Population

- Drug class for review: Opioids
- Age range: All appropriate MO HealthNet participants

Approval Criteria

- Documented or inferred diagnosis of cancer in the past 6 months OR
- Documented diagnosis of sickle cell anemia in the past 6 months OR
- Participant currently enrolled in Hospice care or receiving palliative care in the past year OR
- Accumulated Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) ≤ 200 MME for current claim and all claims in the last 30 days OR
- Approval based upon clinical consultant review and/or receipt of signed Opioid Attestation Form from prescriber
Denial Criteria

- Therapy will be denied if no approval criteria are met

Required Documentation

Laboratory Results: ☐  Progress Notes: ☐
MedWatch Form: ☐  Other: ☒

Disposition of Edit

Denial: Exception code “0097” (Opioid Limits Exceeded)
Rule Type: CE

Default Approval Period

7 days

References