Purpose: The MO HealthNet Pharmacy Program will implement a state-specific preferred drug list.

Why Issue Selected: Chronic pain, typically defined as pain of at least 6 months in duration, is a common cause of major disability. Opioids are a class of medications that act on common receptors and are natural derivatives of morphine. They are the most potent medications available for treatment of most types of severe pain. Opioids are available in both short- and long-acting preparations and are commonly used for malignant as well as chronic non-malignant pain therapy. Opioids therapy has been endorsed by both national associations and chronic pain specialists as appropriate treatment for refractory chronic non-cancer pain in the general population when used judiciously and according to guidelines similar to those used for cancer patients.

Total program savings for the PDL classes will be regularly reviewed.

Program-Specific Preferred Information:
- Butrans®
- Embeda®
- Fentanyl Patch 12, 25, 50, 75, 100mcg/hr
- Morphabond®-ER
- Morphine Sulfate ER Tabs (gen MS Contin®)

Non-Preferred Information:
- Arymo® ER
- Belbuca®
- Buprenorphine Patch
- Duragesic®
- Fentanyl Patch 37.5, 62.5, 87.5mcg/hr
- Hydrocodone ER (gen Zohydro® ER)
- Hydromorphone ER
- Hysingla® ER
- Kadian®
- Morphine ER Caps (gen Avinza®)
- Morphine ER Caps (gen Kadian®)
- MS Contin®
- Oxycodone ER
- OxyContin®
- Oxymorphone ER
- Xtampza® ER
- Zohydro® ER
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: Long Acting Opioids
- Age range: All appropriate MO HealthNet participants 18 years of age or older

Approval Criteria

- Documented or inferred diagnosis of cancer in the last 6 months OR
- Documented diagnosis of sickle cell disease in the last 6 months OR
- Participant currently enrolled in Hospice care or receiving palliative care in the last year OR
- Therapy for pediatric participants aged 18 years of age or younger subject to Clinical Consultant review
- Documented diagnosis of chronic nonmalignant pain (CNMP) in the last 6 months
- Failure to achieve desired therapeutic outcomes with a trial on 3 or more preferred agents
  - Documented trial period for preferred agents OR
  - Documented ADE/ADR to preferred agents
- Documented compliance on a current therapy regimen
- For fentanyl patch doses ≥ 50mcg/hr and oxycodone ER 80mg: inferred diagnosis of opioid tolerance (> 7 days supply in the last 30 days)

Denial Criteria

- Documented opioid dependence therapy in the last 45 days
- Dosing exceeding established daily Morphine-Milligram-Equivalents (MMEs), including MME Accumulation Edit
- Doses exceeding dose optimization limitations
- Lack of adequate trial on required preferred agents
- 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 “0160” (Preferred Drug List Edit)
Rule Type: PDL

Default Approval Period

6 Months
1. Drug Effectiveness Review Project – Drug Class Review on Long-Acting Opioid Analgesics. Center for Evidence-Based Policy, Oregon Health & Science University; May 2011/Update August 2015; Evidence Scan December 2017.

2. Medicaid Evidence-Based Decisions Project – Tapering or Discontinuing Opioid Use among Patients with Chronic Noncancer Pain (Rapid Review). Center for Evidence-Based Policy, Oregon Health & Science University; October 2017.


6. USPDI, Micromedex; 2019.