Executive Summary

**Purpose:** Monitor and ensure appropriate cumulative dosing of acetaminophen

**Why Issue Selected:** Acetaminophen, a non-opioid analgesic, is a first line therapy for mild to moderate pain mainly due to its minimal toxicity, established efficacy, and low cost. It possesses analgesic and antipyretic activity similar to aspirin without the peripheral anti-inflammatory activity or platelet effects. It may also be preferred over NSAIDs due to fewer hematologic, gastrointestinal, and renal effects. Acetaminophen can be used as a single entity but is often combined with other agents, such as opioids, to potentiate pain control. Acetaminophen has a history of safe and effective use, however unintentional or intentional misuse is the number one cause of acute hepatic failure in the US. The maximum daily dosage of 4 grams of acetaminophen per day should not be exceeded to avoid hepatotoxicity. MO HealthNet will edit acetaminophen containing agents to ensure maximum daily dosages of acetaminophen are not exceeded.

**Type of Criteria:** ☒ Increased risk of ADE  ☐ Preferred Drug List  ☐ Appropriate Indications  ☒ Clinical Edit  ☐ Databases + Prescriber-Supplied

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

Setting & Population

- **Drug class for review:** All agents containing acetaminophen
  - **Age range:** All appropriate MO HealthNet participants

Approval Criteria

- Cumulative acetaminophen dosages are ≤ 4 grams per day for current claims and all claims in the last 90 days

Denial Criteria

- Therapy will be denied if all approval criteria are not met
Required Documentation

Laboratory Results:  
MedWatch Form:  
Progress Notes:  
Other: X

Disposition of Edit

Denial: Exception code “0682” (Clinical Edit)
Rule Type: CE

Default Approval Period

1 month

References