



March 9, 2018

TO: MO HealthNet Prescribers

RE: MO HealthNet Opioid Prescription Intervention™ (OPI) Program Changes

The MO HealthNet Opioid Prescription Intervention™ (OPI) Program has provided clinical advisory mailings to prescribers caring for MO HealthNet participants since 2010. The program involves selected evidence-based, best practice Quality Indicators™ (QIs) applied to MO HealthNet pharmacy and medical claims data to generate a customized packet of information to providers regarding their prescribing activity. We know providers have used this information to update their prescribing practices and improve care to our MO HealthNet participants.

Effective March 1, 2018, the Department of Social Services – MO HealthNet Division (MHD) began working collaboratively with the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health and Senior Services to enhance our interactions with providers and accelerate the goals of the OPI Program. The following are important changes that will apply to providers who prescribe opioids for MO HealthNet participants:

1. Adherence to CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain

MO HealthNet has developed clinical policy based on best practices, including the CDC 2016 Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain. Clinical Edits in the Pharmacy Program currently reflect these recommendations and will be enforced in future updates. A factsheet version of the CDC Guidelines is provided with this mailing and the complete document may be referenced at the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm> Providers who prescribe opioids should also work with their patients to taper opioids according to established clinical guidelines as well as connect their patients to medical and behavioral health care for the collaborative management of substance and opioid use disorders.

2. UPDATED and NEW OPI Quality Indicators™

The OPI Program will continue to provide an individualized mailing packet for providers whose prescribing activity results in flagging one or more Quality Indicators™ (QIs). The list of QIs has been revised and prioritized by MO HealthNet; additional QIs added at a future date. Providers will need to carefully review their OPI mailing packet for changes to the QIs.

3. Provider Response and Feedback

MO HealthNet wants to work with providers to ensure common patients receive care according to best practice guidelines for opioid prescribing. To help meet this goal, MO HealthNet will ask providers to engage in dialogue regarding prescribing activity identified through the OPI mailing process. Providers should make use of the new Feedback Form provided with the OPI mailing packets to facilitate communication with MO HealthNet regarding patients in their OPI reports. The Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance (MMAC) Unit will be the contact for provider communications and feedback. Particular QIs may receive a higher priority for additional provider

follow-up.

MMAC will engage providers who do not provide responses to future OPI mailings.

Direct ALL responses and inquiries to:

Missouri Medicaid Audit and Compliance (MMAC) Unit
PO Box 6500
Jefferson City, MO 65102-6500
Phone: (573) 751-3399
Fax: (573) 526-4375
E-Mail: MMAC.OPICompliance@dss.mo.gov

***As a reminder, secure (encrypted) communication must be utilized for any documentation containing PHI.**

4. Implementation of Updated and New Opioid Clinical Edits

Effective March 6, 2018, enhanced Opioid Clinical Edits will be implemented in the Pharmacy Program. The edits, based on CDC Opioid Guidelines, will deny pharmacy claims based on clinical criteria consistent with the QIs identified in the OPI mailing program. A Morphine-Milligram-Equivalent (MME) Accumulation Edit is planned for a May 1, 2018 implementation and will more accurately identify total MME daily dosing and the risk of harm from overdose. For MO HealthNet participants requiring opioid therapy exceeding the criteria established in these Clinical Edits, providers will need to obtain prior authorization.

The collaborative State agencies are charged with protecting the health and safety of Missouri families and communities. We appreciate the service you provide to our MO HealthNet participants and the citizens of Missouri. We intend to work more closely with the provider community to provide the best care possible.



Steve Corsi, Psy.D., Director
Department of Social Services



Randall Williams, MD, Director
Department of Health
And Senior Services



Mark Stringer, Director
Department of Mental Health