



May 29, 2018

TO: MO HealthNet Prescribers

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

----PROVIDER FOLLOW UP IMPORTANT ----

In March 2018 the Department of Social Services – MO HealthNet Division (MHD) announced it had begun working collaboratively with the Department of Mental Health and the Department of Health and Senior Services to enhance interactions with providers to accelerate the goals of the OPI Program. The goals include providing critical clinical advisory mailings to prescribers caring for MHD participants. The mailings contain information that may assist prescribers with updating their opioid prescribing practices ultimately improving care to MHD participants. This effort focuses in part on best practices, including the CDC 2016 Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain.

Since our Departments recognize there is an urgent need to influence our community's opioid use and return opioid prescribing to a more secure and measured level, we are asking providers to engage in dialogue regarding prescribing activity identified through the OPI reports. Through careful examination and discussion with the provider community, MHD has identified Quality Indicators™ (QI) that are high priority and provider follow-up is important.

WHY YOU ARE BEING CONTACTED

You are being contacted because your opioid prescribing activity was flagged as it relates to the following Quality Indicators™.

- **Use of Buprenorphine with another Opioid**
- **Use of Buprenorphine with a Benzodiazepine**
- **Use of Opioids for 60 or More Days with a Diagnosis Suggesting Opioid, Alcohol, or other Substance Abuse in the Last Year**
- **Use of Opioids for 60 or More Days with Two or More Diagnosis of Malingering, Somatization, or Factitious Disorder**
- **Use of Opioids for 60 or More Days in Absence of a Diagnosis Supporting Chronic Use**
- **Use of Opioids for 60 or More Days in Absence of a Diagnosis Supporting Chronic Use (Under 18 Years)**

Providers have **20 business days** from the date of this letter to respond. A feedback form is included to facilitate provider responses. **Providers that fail to respond may be referred to the Bureau of Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs.** Please send all provider responses to:

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

Contact MMAC if you require an additional copy of this letter and/or packet.

Secure (encrypted) communication must be utilized for any documentation containing PHI.

Clinical Review/Peer-to-Peer Consultation Available

Providers may request a peer-to-peer consultation in response to clinical issues identified from the OPI mailing packet. The feedback form provided in the OPI mailing packet may be used to request a peer-to-peer consultation with an expert clinician. In addition, MHD may initiate a clinical review through its established review and audit process of any documentation and will engage prescribers as appropriate. Providers are encouraged to contact MMAC for assistance, questions, or concerns.

Additional Resources

MHD is working to provide additional tools for clinicians in the management of chronic pain. In the near future, MHD anticipates having coverage for alternative therapies for chronic pain for specific conditions. More information will be provided as it becomes available.

You may access more information about the OPI program and the Quality Indicators™ online. Please visit <https://dss.mo.gov/> and click the “MO HealthNet Opioid Prescription Intervention (OPI) Program” green button.

MO HealthNet will be diligent in our interactions with prescribers. Please contact us at (573) 751-3399 if you have any questions or concerns. Thank you for the care you provide to our MO HealthNet participants.



Dr. Steve Corsi, Director
Department of Social Services



Dr. Randall W. Williams, Director
Department of Health and Senior



Mark Stringer, Director
Department of Mental Health

The Opioid Prescription Intervention™ (OPI) Program, as established and administered by the State of Missouri, does not imply, infer, or otherwise suggest a standard of care or practice for the prescribing of opioids by a healthcare provider. Information contained in this letter and enclosed mailing packet is not intended to include all proper manners or methods of treatment or care, and is not intended as a statement of the standard of care or to substitute for the professional judgment of the treating clinician.