

Pharmacy Services

(800) 522-0114, option 4

Opioid Analgesic Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) Limits

May 20, 2019

Dear Pharmacist,

While opioid pain relievers play an important role in pain management, their abuse and misuse has become a growing public health issue in Oklahoma and nation-wide.

Starting January 2019, the first phase of a daily opioid MME limit was implemented. The edit will be implemented in three (3) phases for SoonerCare pharmacy claims. **The next phase will occur on July 22, 2019.**

Date of Daily Opioid MME Limit Implementation	Daily MME Affected
Phase 1 - January 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members greater than or equal to 240 MME per day
Phase 2 - April 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members greater than or equal to 180 MME per day
Phase 3 - July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Members greater than or equal to 100 MME per day

Effective July 22, 2019, opioid MME daily totals greater than or equal to 100 will require prior authorization with patient-specific, clinically significant reasoning why the member requires 100 MME or more per day. This limit has been gradually decreased over time to allow providers to develop tapering plans for appropriate patients and implement them when possible.

This advance notice is to provide you the opportunity to contact prescribers, counsel, and review patients' prescriptions. Providers can also access a patient's MME totals by consulting the Oklahoma Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) Aware system. OHCA is encouraging providers to access the PMP site and begin tapering (where appropriate) those members who meet or exceed the 100 MME threshold.

Beginning July 22, 2019, a claim will process without a prior authorization if the member's total daily MME is less than 100 (current opioid prior authorization criteria and tier structure rules will continue to apply). If the member requires daily MME totals greater than or equal to 100 the provider can submit a MME override request via form PHARM-111, available on the SoonerCare website (www.okhca.org/rxforms).

Of note: Medications provided for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) will be exempt from this policy. For more information regarding MAT coverage policies visit <http://www.okhca.org/rx>. For more information regarding the current opioid epidemic in Oklahoma, MAT and a list of available treatment centers and resources, visit <https://okimready.org/>.

Thank you for the services you provide to Oklahomans insured by SoonerCare!