

## Pharmacy Services

(800) 522-0114, option 4

### Opioid Analgesic Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) Limits

September 16, 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 was implemented in three (3) phases for SoonerCare pharmacy claims. **The next phase will occur on October 1, 2019.**

Date of Daily Opioid MME Limit Implementation	Daily MME Affected
Phase 3 - July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Members greater than or equal to 100 MME per day</li> </ul>
<b>Phase 4 – October 2019</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>Members greater than or equal to 90 MME per day</b></li> </ul>

**Effective October 1, 2019, opioid MME daily totals greater than or equal to 90 will require prior authorization with patient-specific, clinically significant reasoning why the member requires 90 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. The Oklahoma Health Care Authority (OHCA) is encouraging providers to access the PMP site and begin tapering (where appropriate) those members who meet or exceed the 90 MME threshold.

**Beginning October 1, 2019, a claim will process without a prior authorization if the member’s total daily MME is less than 90 (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 90 the provider can submit a MME override request via form PHARM-111, available on the SoonerCare website ([www.okhca.org/rxforms](http://www.okhca.org/rxforms)).

*Of note:* Medications provided for medication-assisted treatment (MAT) are exempt from this policy. For more information regarding MAT coverage policies visit <http://www.okhca.org/opg>. 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!