

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF MEDICAL SERVICES

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May 3, 2018

ATTENTION: South Dakota Medicaid Pharmacies and Prescribers

FROM: South Dakota Medicaid

RE: Opioid Prescription Changes

Dear South Dakota Medicaid Providers:

In conjunction with the South Dakota Medicaid Pharmacy and Therapeutics (P&T) Committee, the South Dakota Medicaid (Medicaid) prescription drug benefit is implementing several changes to the prescription benefit regarding coverage of opioid prescriptions. These changes are being made to align with best practices in opioid management and to reduce the risk of opioid addiction and misuse.

Please note that implementation of the following changes will be staggered over the following year; additional information about future changes is forthcoming. Please watch for additional communications from South Dakota Medicaid and take note of future coverage changes in order to prepare your internal processes and your South Dakota Medicaid patients for the changes to coverage. These requirements affect outpatient prescriptions filled at a pharmacy. These changes will include:

1. Early Refill Threshold for Controlled Substances

- This change will affect how soon a Medicaid recipient may receive a refill for all controlled substances in addition to opioid prescriptions.
- For example, under South Dakota Medicaid's current guidelines, a 30 day prescription will be eligible for a refill after 23 days. Under the new early refill threshold, a 30 day prescription for controlled substances will be eligible for a refill after 26 days.
- Implementation is targeted for **June 1, 2018**.
- A notice of the change to the early refill threshold is attached. South Dakota Medicaid encourages providers to distribute the notice to affected participants or display the notice in a visible location.

2. Prior Authorization for One Long Acting and One Short Acting Opioid Product

- Medicaid Patients requiring more than one long acting and one short acting opioid product will require prior authorization.
- Changes in therapy (ex. changing products) will require a new prior authorization request to be submitted.
- Patients with a terminal diagnosis will be exempt from these requirements.
- Implementation is targeted for **July 1, 2018**.

3. Opioid Naïve Limit

The Department of Social Services does not exclude, deny benefits to, or otherwise discriminate against any person on the basis of actual or perceived race, color, religion, national origin, sex, age, gender identity, sexual orientation or disability in admission or access to, or treatment or employment in its programs, activities, or services. For more information about this policy or to file a Discrimination Complaint you may contact: Discrimination Coordinator, Director of DSS Division of Legal Services, 700 Governor's Drive, Pierre SD 57501, 605-773-3305.

ATENCIÓN: si habla español, tiene a su disposición servicios gratuitos de asistencia lingüística. Llame al 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).

ACHTUNG: Wenn Sie Deutsch sprechen, stehen Ihnen kostenlos sprachliche Hilfsdienstleistungen zur Verfügung. Rufnummer: 1-800-305-9673 (TTY: 711).

- Recipients who have not filled a prescription for an opioid prescription within the previous 60 days will only be allowed an initial fill of a seven (7) day supply and a maximum 60 morphine equivalent dose (MED).
- Patients with a terminal diagnosis will be exempt from these requirements.
- Implementation is targeted for **August 1, 2018**.

4. Morphine Equivalent Dose (MED) Maximum Prior Authorization

- Medicaid patients requiring a new or renewal prescription for morphine equivalent dosing greater than 300 MEDs per day will require prior authorization. Claims without prior authorization will be denied.
- Implementation is targeted for **October 1, 2018**.
- For both new or renewal prescriptions and those in place prior to October 1, 2018, the MED threshold will decrease by approximately 10% each month until the target MED is reached. South Dakota Medicaid will utilize the following tapering schedule:

October 1, 2018:	300 MEDs
November 1, 2018:	270 MEDs
December 1, 2018:	240 MEDs
January 1, 2019:	220 MEDs
February 1, 2019:	200 MEDs
March 1, 2019:	180 MEDs
April 1, 2019:	160 MEDs
May 1, 2019:	140 MEDs
June 1, 2019:	130 MEDs
July 1, 2019:	120 MEDs
August 1, 2019:	110 MEDs
September 1, 2019:	100 MEDs
October 1, 2019:	90 MEDs
- The target is in alignment with CDC recommended maximum MED levels and the tapering schedule approximates a 10% MED reduction each month in line with the CDC recommendations for tapering.
- Patients with a terminal diagnosis will be exempt from these requirements.
- South Dakota Medicaid encourages providers with patients on high doses of opioids to begin tapering patients *in advance* of implementation in order to allow for the maximum amount of time to taper patients.
- South Dakota Medicaid will contact patients and prescribers of patients receiving more than 300 MEDs prior to implementation.

The implementation schedule is staggered to allow providers to proactively implement these requirements. South Dakota Medicaid encourages providers to begin discussions with patients to minimize potential impact.

Resources are available through the Division of Behavioral Health for patients that providers may suspect or have strong inclination of substance use issues and/or abuse. The Division of Behavioral Health maintains an interactive map at: <http://dss.sd.gov/behavioralhealth/agencycounty.aspx> to identify accredited treatment providers across the state. In addition, resources can also be located at: <https://findtreatment.samhsa.gov/>.

South Dakota Medicaid's coverage includes medication-assisted treatment (MAT). MAT combines FDA approved medications with counseling and behavioral therapies for the treatment of substance use disorders. A combination of medication and behavioral therapies is effective in the treatment of substance use disorders, and can help sustain recovery. South Dakota Medicaid covers treatment of

substance use disorders for children and pregnant women and will cover for all adults effective July 1, 2018.

For more detailed opioid prescribing guidelines please review the document published by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention at the following link:

<https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>

The South Dakota State Medical Association (SDSMA) in conjunction with the South Dakota Academy of PAs has developed a checklist for prescribing opiates for chronic, non-cancer pain. The checklist may be accessed through the SDSMA website found at <https://www.sdsma.org/> South Dakota Medicaid expects prescribers to follow state and federal guidelines for the prescription of opioid medications.

South Dakota Medicaid expects prescribers to utilize the South Dakota Prescription Drug Monitoring (PDMP) program to guard against opiate misuse. The PDMP is a valuable tool which allows you to monitor all controlled substance prescriptions filled by your patient. You can access the PDMP at the website <https://southdakota.pmpaware.net/login>

Thank you,

South Dakota Medicaid

NOTICE

Changes to South Dakota Medicaid prescription coverage for controlled substances coming soon:

June 2018

- Fewer refills for controlled substances (ex. hydrocodone, oxycodone, Adderall).

July 2018

- Prior authorization needed for multiple pain medications.

August 2018

- Limited quantities for first time fill of pain medications.

October 2018

- Lower daily limits for certain medications (ex. hydrocodone, oxycodone).

Visit with your doctor or pharmacist about how these changes may affect you.