

Pharmacy Services

(800) 522-0114, option 4

Opioid Analgesic Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) Limits

November 19, 2018

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 will be implemented. The edit will be implemented in three (3) Phases for SoonerCare pharmacy claims. The next phase will occur in April 2019, and the final phase will occur in July 2019.

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

Effective January 7, 2019, opioid MME daily totals exceeding 240 will require prior authorization with patient-specific, clinically significant reasoning why the member requires more than 240 MME per day. This limit will be gradually decreased over time, allowing 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) members who exceed the 100 MME threshold.

Beginning in July 2019, a claim will process without a prior authorization if the member's total daily MME does not exceed 100 (current opioid prior authorization criteria and tier structure rules will continue to apply). If the member requires daily MME totals exceeding 100 the provider can submit a MME override request via form PHARM-111, available on the SoonerCare website (www.okhca.org/forms).

Of note: medications provided for Medication-Assisted Treatment (MAT) will be exempt from this policy.

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