

HPSM Announcement

Date: December 27, 2018
To: HPSM Contracted Providers

New for 2019: Health Plan of San Mateo CareAdvantage CMC Opioid Safety Edits

Beginning January 1st 2019, the Health Plan of San Mateo (HPSM) CareAdvantage CMC Plan will implement new point-of-sale safety edits for opioids in order to address safety concerns regarding opioid prescriptions. This is consistent with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) which finalized new opioid policies for those patients with Medicare Part D. *Please note: These point-of-sale safety edits only apply to HPSM members who have CareAdvantage CMC and DO NOT apply to those members with Medi-Cal, CCS, HealthWorx HMO, or Healthy Kids HMO.*

Exemptions: Residents of long-term care facilities, those who are in hospice care, receiving palliative or end-of-life care, or treated for active cancer-related pain are exempt from these interventions. These policies will not impact patients' access to medication-assisted treatment (MAT), such as buprenorphine.

There will be two types of point-of-sale opioid edits beginning 2019:

- **“Hard Edit”:** Claim is stopped and CANNOT be overridden by the pharmacy. Hard edits can only be overridden by HPSM after consultation with the prescriber.
- **“Soft Edit”:** Claim is stopped and CAN be overridden by the pharmacy. Soft edits may or may not involve consultation with the prescriber.

Prescribers may be contacted by a pharmacist in order to resolve these safety edits. **HPSM encourages prescribers to respond to pharmacist's outreach in a timely manner in order to prevent disruptions of care.** Prescribers are also encouraged to provide adequate training to all applicable on-call prescribers in case the primary prescriber is not available. Prescribers have the right to submit a coverage determination request to HPSM on behalf of a patient to allow for quantities or days supply in excess of these point-of-sale opioid safety edits and to prevent them from triggering (*please consult the HPSM website at www.hpsm.org for details*).

Summary of HPSM CareAdvantage CMC 2019 Opioid Safety Edits

Type of Edit	Details
7 day Supply Limit for Opioid Naïve Patients (“Hard Edit”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This alert triggers when an opioid naïve patient attempts to fill an opioid prescription for greater than 7 days supply. • Opioid naïve patients are considered those patients who do not have a paid claim for an opioid in the previous 120 days. • Subsequent prescriptions written for the same patient within 120 days of the initial fill will not be subject to the 7 days supply limit since the patient will no longer be considered opioid naïve. • This alert will NOT impact those who are already taking opioids and who have a paid claim for any opioid in the previous 120 days.
Opioid Care Coordination Alert at 90 Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME) (“Soft Edit”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This alert triggers when a patient exceeds over 90 MME per day across all of their opioid prescription(s) AND whose opioid prescriptions are from 2 different prescribers. • This alert can be overridden by the pharmacy once the pharmacist consults with the patient’s prescriber. • Once a pharmacist consults with a prescriber on a patient’s prescription for a plan year, the prescriber will not be contacted on every opioid prescription written for the same patient unless HPSM implements further restrictions. • This is not a prescribing limit. The 90 MME alert is a safety edit and decisions to taper or discontinue opioids are individualized and between the patient and the prescriber.
Concurrent Opioid and Benzodiazepine Use or Duplicative Long-Acting Opioid Therapy (“Soft Edit”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These alerts will trigger when opioids and benzodiazepines are taken concurrently or if a patient is on multiple long-acting opioids. • The pharmacist will review to determine if the patient’s opioid use is clinically appropriate and safe and the prescriber may be contacted.
Safety Alert for 200 MME or Greater (“Hard Edit”)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This alert triggers when a patient exceeds over 200 MME per day across all of their opioid prescription(s) regardless of the number of prescribers. • This which can only be overridden when authorized by HPSM. • Once the prescriber(s) acknowledges that the identified cumulative MME level is medically appropriate, the medication will be dispensed to the patient. <i>A prescriber can make this acknowledgement via any ONE of the following:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The prescriber submits a coverage determination request to HPSM. ○ The prescriber contacts the HPSM pharmacy department @ 650-616-2088 to speak with a pharmacist. <p><i>A HPSM pharmacist may also preemptively enter an administrative override if clinically appropriate.</i></p> • This is not a prescribing limit. The 200 MME alert is a safety edit and decisions to taper or discontinue opioids are individualized and between the patient and the prescriber.

If you have any questions or concerns about these point-of-sale opioid safety edits, please do not hesitate to contact the Health Plan of San Mateo Pharmacy Department at **650-616-2088**.

Thank you,

The Health Plan of San Mateo