

INFORMATIONAL LETTER NO. 2245-MC-FFS

DATE: July 14, 2021

TO: Iowa Medicaid Physicians, Dentists, Advanced Registered Nurse Practitioners, Therapeutically Certified Optometrists, Podiatrists, Pharmacies, Home Health Agencies, Rural Health Clinics, Clinics, Skilled Nursing Facilities, Intermediate Care Facilities, Nursing Facilities – Mental ILL, Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHC), Indian Health Service, Maternal Health Centers, Certified Nurse Midwife, Community Mental Health, Family Planning, Residential Care Facilities, ICF/ID State and Community-Based ICF/ID Providers, and Physician Assistants

APPLIES TO: Managed Care (MC), Fee-for-Service (FFS),

FROM: Iowa Department of Human Services (DHS), Iowa Medicaid Enterprise (IME)

RE: September 2021 Iowa Medicaid Pharmacy Program Changes

EFFECTIVE: September 1, 2021

Background:

The Substance Use Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUPPORT) for Patients and Communities Act requires state Medicaid programs to have in place prospective safety edits for subsequent fills for opioids. In December 2020, additional minimum standard requirements were added to the rule. To further implement section 1927(g)(1) of the Act, and consistent with section 1004 of the Act, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) proposed that states establish safety edit limitations on the days' supply for an initial prescription opioid fill for beneficiaries who have not filled an opioid prescription within a defined time period to be specified by the state.

Point of Sale (POS) Billing Update:

Effective September 1, 2021, a prospective drug utilization review (ProDUR) edit of an initial 7-day opioid supply limit for opioid-naïve patients will be implemented. Opioid-naïve is defined as no opioid in Medicaid claims history in the previous 60 days. No prior authorization is required for prescriptions equal to, or for no more than, a cumulative 7-day supply of opioids in the last 60 days within allowed limits. A maximum

7-day supply is allowed per fill. The cumulative opioid dose must not exceed 90 morphine milligram equivalents (MME) per day and must not exceed the maximum U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) approved dosage.

Prior Authorization (PA):

PA is required to exceed a 7-day supply in an opioid-naïve member. Requests should be submitted on the Initial Days' Supply Limit Override PA form which will be available on the [Preferred Drug List \(PDL\) website](#)¹ prior to the September 1, 2021, effective date. PA criteria to exceed the initial days' supply limit, specific to various scenarios, are being finalized by the Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Commission.

If you have questions, please contact the appropriate managed care organization (MCO) or the IME Pharmacy POS Helpdesk at 877-463-7671, locally in Des Moines at 515-256-4608, or by e-mail at info@iowamedicaidpdl.com.

¹ http://www.iowamedicaidpdl.com/pa_forms