Purpose:

Establish an opioid refill policy that prevents overutilization through early refills.

Policy:

Central California Alliance for Health (the Alliance) requires greater-than or equal-to 90% of a member’s opioid prescription’s daily supply to have elapsed before the opioid prescription can be refilled. This refill-limit will be applied to all drugs in STC 0268 (Narcotic Analgesics).

Definitions:

Standard Therapeutic Class (STC): First-Data-Bank classification of therapeutic classes.

Refill-too-soon: Pharmacy benefits design that prevents early refills of various medications.

First-Data-Bank: Drug information publisher that classifies drugs by therapeutic category, pricing, etc.

Narcotic analgesics: drugs related to the opioid class. They include, but are not limited to hydrocodone-acetaminophen, morphine, oxycodone, methadone, fentanyl, tramadol, hydromorphone, oxymorphone, and others.

Procedures:

1. Alliance will allow members to refill their opioid medications once greater-than or equal-to 90% of days’ supply of their prescription elapses.
2. Alliance will implement 90% refill-too-soon policy with a Business Change Request through the Pharmacy Benefit Manager (PBM) for the Standard Therapeutic Class, (STC) Narcotic Analgesics (STC code = 0268)
3. Providers attempting to fill an opioid script with less-than 90% of the days’ supply elapsed will see a rejection at pharmacy point-of-sale for refill-too-soon.
4. Providers requesting an exception to fill an opioid script with less than 90% days’ supply elapsed will have to submit a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) that includes medical necessity for why the member needs an early fill.
Policy #: 403-1140
Title: Opioid Refill Policy
Original Date: 02/13/2017
Policy Hub Approval Date: 04/05/2017
Approved by: Utilization Management Work Group (UMWG)

References:
Alliance Policies:
Impacted Departments:
  - Care Management
  - Member Services
  - Provider Services
Regulatory:
Legislative:
Contractual:
MMCD Policy Letter:
NCQA:
Supersedes:
Other References:
Attachments:

Lines of Business This Policy Applies To

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<th>LOB Effective Dates</th>
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<td>☒ Medi-Cal</td>
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<td>☒ Alliance Care IHSS</td>
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<td>☒ Medi-Cal Access Program (MCAP)</td>
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Revision History:

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