

Opioid medications are generally safe and useful for managing acute (short-term) pain when prescribed and used appropriately. In certain patients, such as those with cancer or other conditions, they may also hold value to be used long-term. However, extended or inappropriate use can lead to dependence and/or addiction. Taking these medications differently than prescribed greatly increases the chances of severe side effects, including overdose and death.

Opioids can be broken down into two classes; short- and long-acting opioids. Certain medications may be available as both short- or long-acting products based on the particular formulation. Short-acting opioids are generally used for acute injuries or conditions. These include products such as: codeine (Tylenol w/Codeine®), hydrocodone (Lortab®, Norco®, Vicodin®), hydromorphone (Dilaudid®), morphine (MSIR®) and oxycodone (Oxy IR®, Percocet®).

Often times, these products are also combined with another ingredient, such as acetaminophen or ibuprofen, to provide additional analgesia. Long-acting products are typically reserved for those in chronic pain due to illnesses, such as cancer.

These include extended release versions of oxycodone (Oxycontin®), oxymorphone (Opana ER®), and morphine (Kadian®, MS Contin®) along with transdermal fentanyl (Duragesic®).

In order to help address the growing concern over the safe and appropriate use of opioids, ProAct has implemented two programs intended to work in conjunction with federal and state programs. The **Short-Acting Opioid Management Program** places limits on both the amount of medication and number of fills a member can have over a set time-frame for short-acting opioids. While this program is not intended to prevent members from getting medications when they are appropriate, it will help ensure that these medications are used properly, both in the quantity of medication and duration of treatment. The **Long-Acting Opioid Management Program** requires that all long-acting products go through the prior authorization process to ensure the medications are being used prudently for the diagnosis.



## SHORT-ACTING *Opioid Management Program*

Used for acute injuries or conditions.

- Maximum dose of 90 morphine-equivalent mgs per day of medication.
- Maximum of (2) 7-day fills within 60 days of any short-acting opioid product.

If a member exceeds these limitations, the claim will reject with the messaging that a Prior Authorization would be required in order to receive any additional medication.



## LONG-ACTING *Opioid Management Program*

Used for chronic pain due to illness.

### NEW TO THERAPY

- For members who are new to long-acting opioid therapy and have had a short-acting opioid fill within the last 30 days.
- Maximum dose of 90 morphine-equivalent mgs per day of medication.

### TREATMENT EXPERIENCED

- For members who are not new to long-acting opioid therapy and have had a long-acting opioid fill within the last 30 days.
- Maximum dose of 90 morphine-equivalent mgs per day of medication.

If a member does not meet the requirements of the program, the claim will reject with the messaging that a Prior Authorization would be required in order to receive the medication.

Please Note: Additional state-specific pharmacy regulations may apply.