

Amerigroup opioid analgesics utilization management clinical policies

On July 1, 2018, the short-acting opioid analgesic clinical policy applies to acetaminophen with codeine products. For the rest of 2018, on a monthly basis, more short-acting opioid products will gradually be included in the Amerigroup short-acting opioid analgesic clinical policy.

In 2016, Amerigroup began implementing revised clinical policies for opioid analgesics to help improve patient safety and to reduce the misuse and abuse of opioid analgesics. These policies apply to all Amerigroup health plans.

The utilization management clinical policies include requirements for both the short-acting and long-acting opioid analgesics that are based on the *CDC Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Chronic Pain*: <http://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/65/rr/rr6501e1.htm>.

- **Short-acting opioid analgesics:** Members not currently using opioid analgesics on a regular basis will be limited to a seven-day supply per fill and 14-day supply per 30 days before requiring a prior authorization. Members who are actively receiving treatment for cancer and those who are terminally ill and undergoing palliative care will be approved through the prior authorization review process. Requests for a supply greater than the noted seven-day or 14-day supplies will require additional review.
- **Long-acting opioid analgesics:** Members who are new-starts and are not currently using a long-acting opioid analgesic will require prior authorization. Members currently using a long-acting opioid analgesic will not require prior authorization. Members who are newly prescribed a long-acting opioid and are actively receiving treatment for cancer or those who are terminal and undergoing palliative care will be automatically approved.

If you have questions about this communication or need assistance with any other item, contact your local Provider Relations representative or call Provider Services at 1-800-454-3730.

<https://providers.amerigroup.com>

Amerigroup members in the Medicaid Rural Service Area and the STAR Kids program are served by Amerigroup Insurance Company; all other Amerigroup members in Texas are served by Amerigroup Texas, Inc.