



Dear HPM Provider,

Health Plan of Michigan is implementing a change to the refill restrictions for narcotic analgesics. Effective March 1, 2008, HPM will increase the refill tolerance of narcotic analgesics from twenty five percent (25%) to ten percent (10%) for our members. The only exception to this policy is for members enrolled in hospice.

As you may be aware, this initiative has already been implemented by the Michigan Department of Community Health for its Medicaid fee-for-service program as of November 1, 2007. Please reference MSA Bulletin 07-55 for more information.

Under this new refill tolerance, a Health Plan of Michigan member cannot obtain a new prescription or refill an existing narcotic analgesic until 90% of the drug quantity limit has been consumed in compliance with the prescribed dose, amount, frequency and time intervals established by FDA and approved by HPM. This includes prescriptions for a different drug within the same therapeutic class. The new 90% rule applies whether the drug is prescribed by the same or a different health care provider.

Effective pain management for patients with acute or chronic pain is a part of quality health care, and it is especially important for patients who experience pain as a result of a terminal illness. Controlled substances, including Opioid analgesics, may be essential in the treatment of acute pain due to trauma or surgery and chronic pain, whether due to cancer or non-cancer origins. Pain should be assessed and treated promptly, and the quantity and frequency of treatment should be adjusted according to the intensity and duration of the pain. The goal is to control the patient's pain for its duration while effectively addressing other aspects of the patients' functioning, including physical, psychological, social and work-related factors.

If your patients require additional narcotic medications, thereby exceeding the refill tolerance, exception requests are available through the prior authorization process.

If you have clinical questions related to this new policy, please contact HPM Medical Management at (313) 324-3700 extension 1600. Treatment programs are available through Community Mental Health (CMH) for members that have narcotic addiction problems. Please call our Member Services Department at 1-888-437-0606 to obtain contact information for the local CMH provider in your area.

Sincerely,

Medical Management
Health Plan of Michigan