



AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware Provider Bulletin

Attention providers:

Effective October 1, 2018, AmeriHealth Caritas Delaware will implement a limitation on opiate prescriptions for members who have not filled a prescription for opiate therapy in the last 90 days. In accordance with Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations, an opiate-naïve member will have their quantity limited to a **seven-day supply equal to or less than 50 oral morphine equivalents per day on their first short-acting opiate prescription**. Below are the most common dispensed examples of the quantity limitations:

7-Day opiate-naïve limitations	Limitation
Hydrocodone, 10 mg	35 tablets for 7 days
Hydromorphone, 4 mg	21 tablets for 7 days
Morphine, 15 mg	21 tablets for 7 days
Oxycodone, 5 mg	42 tablets for 7 days

For prescribing providers, we ask that you adjust quantities on first-time opiate prescriptions to be below these CDC guidelines whenever possible. If the prescription is for a preferred product and below the quantity limitation, it will not need prior authorization.

For dispensing pharmacies, if you receive a quantity and/or day supply that exceeds the limitation, you can either inform the prescriber that the quantity dispensed is being reduced to meet the limitation or contact the prescriber to have a prior authorization submitted.

This limitation serves two-fold:

- To decrease prolonged opiate exposure to members when possible.
- To decrease leftover medication that could be diverted or improperly stored.

If you have any questions, please contact PerformRxSM at the corresponding plan number below:

PerformRx Pharmacy Provider Services

- Diamond State Health Plan (DSHP) and Delaware Healthy Children Program (DHCP): **1-855-251-0966**.
- DSHP-Plus: **1-888-987-6396**.

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