

# Dental Care

## Urgent: New Prior Authorization Requirements for Short-Acting Opioids – June 1<sup>st</sup>, 2016

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### Overview

Partnership HealthPlan of California (PHC) has instituted prescribing guidelines to safeguard the health and well-being of our members. Our goal has been to reduce the unnecessary increasing doses of opioids for patients already on high doses. This June, PHC will further its mission by adopting the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) recommendations for using opioid pain medications for acute pain. These recommendations will coincide with PHC's Managing Pain Safely Initiative. According to the CDC, the lowest effective dose of fast-acting opioid prescriptions should be prescribed for 3 days or less; more than 7 days will rarely be needed. If more medication is needed, a Treatment Authorization Request (TAR) will be required to ensure the treatment is safe and appropriate.

As dentists are often among the leading prescribers of opioid analgesics, dental care providers should be aware of these formulary changes and in most cases, limit their opioid prescribing accordingly. There is often a "chain of events" that occur when a patient is prescribed short acting opioids but could have taken an alternative medication such as a combination of non-steroidal medication and acetaminophen. This "chain of events" includes the possible use of opioids for emotional pain, setting into motion to the potential for prolonged use and opioid use disorder.

### Opioid Prescribing and Dental Pain

- 1.) It has been demonstrated that alternative medications are often more effective than opioids when treating dental pain. Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs (NSAIDs) are generally indicated to be the first line treatment for dental pain.
- 2.) Additional alternative analgesic treatment, such as acetaminophen and local anesthetics should be used whenever possible to reduce necessity of opioid analgesics. A treatment regimen of NSAIDs and acetaminophen have been shown to often be more effective than opioid analgesics for treatment of dental pain.
- 3.) Prior to prescribing pain medication, comprehensive documentation of dental and medical history should be prepared. If opioids are prescribed, a risk assessment should be administered to evaluate psychiatric status and substance use history.
- 4.) If prescribing opioids, be sure to run a CURES report prior to prescribing.
- 5.) If an opioid is to be administered, prescribers should abide by PHC quantity limits and provide brief justification of opioids on the script.
- 6.) If patients require long term analgesic treatment, refer back to primary care physician.
- 7.) You may find the following articles helpful when prescribing pain medications:

- i. Baker, J., Avorn, J., Levin, R., & Bateman, B. (2016, April 19). Opioid prescribing after surgical extraction of teeth in Medicaid patients, 2000-2010. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 315 (15), 1653-1654.
- ii. Becker BE. Pain Management: Part 1: Managing Acute and Postoperative Dental Pain. *Anesthesia Progress: A Journal for Pain and Anxiety Control in Dentistry*. 2010; 57 (2): 67-69. DOI: 10.2344/0003-3006-57.2.67, Available at <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2886920/>

If you would like more information, please visit the Partnership MPS Website for FAQs, additional information and recommended treatment guidelines -

<http://www.partnershiphp.org/Providers/HealthServices/Pages/Managing-Pain-Safely.aspx>

## Program Highlights (effective June 1, 2016)

**Table 1:** Summary of short-acting opioid formulary changes for tablet/capsules

Generic Name	Dosage Form	Strength	New Formulary Quantity Restrictions
APAP WITH CODEINE	TABLET	300MG-15MG 300MG-30MG 300MG-60MG	QTY LIMIT #30/90 DAYS  <b>Note: Quantity limits apply to all short-acting opioids within the 90-day timeframe.</b>
HYDROCODONE BIT/APAP	TABLET	10MG-325MG 5MG-325MG 7.5MG-325MG	
HYDROMORPHONE HCL	TABLET	2MG 4MG 8MG	
LEVORPHANOL TARTRATE	TABLET	2MG	
MORPHINE SULFATE	TABLET	15MG 30MG	
OXYCODONE HCL	TABLET	5MG 10MG 15MG 20MG 30MG	
OXYCODONE HCL	CAPSULE	5MG	
OXYCODONE HCL/APAP	TABLET	10MG-325MG 5MG-325MG	
TRAMADOL HCL	TABLET	50MG	