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Provider
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December 11, 2017

Blue Cross and BCN will limit opioids to 30-day supply and first fills of short-acting opioids to five days, starting Feb. 1, 2018.

Dear Provider,

Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan and Blue Care Network are changing the way we cover opioid medications in support of the Food and Drug Administration's efforts to educate members and providers about balancing the serious risk of opioids with the drugs' pain management benefits. One or more of your patients will be affected by these changes.

Short-acting opioid prescriptions limited to five days for first fill

Starting Feb. 1, 2018, patients new to opioid therapy and receiving a short-acting opioid will be limited to a five-day supply for their first fill. Subsequent prescriptions and refills will be limited to a 30-day supply.

Opioids limited to 30-day supplies

Blue Cross and BCN will limit supplies of opioids to a 30-day fill, starting Feb. 1, 2018. This includes new prescriptions and any refills your patient may have left on a current prescription.

These changes won't apply to oncology patients or those who are receiving end-of-life care.

WHAT YOU NEED TO DO

We've written to affected patients and asked them to talk to you about their medication options. If the opioid medication is a Schedule II controlled substance, your patient will need new 30-day prescriptions, starting Feb. 1, 2018, as the State of Michigan prohibits refills.

*If you have questions about our pharmacy programs, call the Pharmacy Services Clinical help desk at **1-800-437-3803**.*

Sincerely,

Your Pharmacy Team
Blue Cross and BCN Pharmacy Services