

**Date:** August 1, 2018

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast Providers

**Subject:** Opioid Prescription Update

AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania and AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast continue to carefully review and update our prior authorization requirements for opioid prescriptions. Our goal is to work with you to help ensure that our members are receiving the correct treatment for their pain and that opioid utilization is managed and monitored appropriately. To accomplish this goal, we are expanding our application of maximum morphine milligram equivalent (MME) and maximum day supply limits safety edits for opioid medications.

Effective 9/4/2018, prior authorization will be required for\*:

- All extended-release and long acting (ER/LA) opioids.
- Any opioid regimen greater than or equal to 90 MME per day (calculated across all products if members are receiving more than one opioid concurrently).
- Greater than a three-day supply of opioids for members under 21 years of age.
- Greater than a five-day supply of opioids for members 21 years of age or older.

\*This change is **not** applicable to AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care members.

Members that are currently undergoing treatment for cancer, in hospice, receiving palliative care or identified as having sickle cell disease will be exempt from these requirements. Claims for these members that do not auto-approve can receive a one year approval by calling the numbers shown below.

Prior authorization forms for opioid containing products, as well as opioid treatment resources may be found on AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania's website at [www.amerihealthcaritaspa.com](http://www.amerihealthcaritaspa.com) or [www.amerihealthcaritasnortheast.com](http://www.amerihealthcaritasnortheast.com) →Pharmacy.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact:

Plan	Opioid Phone Number	Opioid Fax Number
AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania	1-800-578-0898	1-877-708-9080
AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast	1-888-208-1020	1-877-693-8482

Fraud, Waste, and Abuse Tip Hotline: 1-866-833-9718, 24 hours a day, seven days a week.  
Secure and confidential. You may remain anonymous. Mandatory provider training available on-line at <http://www.amerihealthcaritaspa.com/provider/resources/fraud.aspx> (AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania) and <http://www.amerihealthcaritasnortheast.com/provider/resources/fraud.aspx> (AmeriHealth Caritas Northeast).