



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
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Proposed Prior Authorization Criteria for Opioids Prescribed to Under Age 18:

Coverage and Limitations:

- Short Acting Opioids will be covered without Prior Authorization (PA):
 - For initial prescription of **three** days or less; and
 - For a total of 13 **three**-day prescriptions in any rolling 12-month period; and
 - For prescriptions of 60 MME or less per day.
- Recipients currently on chronic opioid medications will not be subject to the **three**-day requirement for an opioid(s) they have been receiving in the past 45 days.
- To exceed the number of **three**-day prescriptions, or to exceed the **three**-day limit, or to exceed the 60 MME or less per day (All of the following must be met):
 - All of the following criteria must be met and documented:
 - The recipient has chronic pain or requires an extended opioid therapy and is under the supervision of a licensed prescriber; and
 - Pain cannot be controlled through the use of non-opioid therapy (acetaminophen, NSAIDs, antidepressants, anti-seizure medications, physical therapy, **chiropractic treatment**, etc.)
 - The lowest effective dose is being prescribed; and
 - A pain contract is on file.
- Exceptions:
 - Recipients with cancer/malignancy related pain, recipients who are post-surgery with an anticipated prolonged recovery (greater than three months), recipients residing in a long-term care facility, recipients receiving treatment for HIV/AIDS, hospice, palliative care, or end-of-life care.
 - Prescriptions written by or in consultation with a pain specialist.

- Prior authorization approval will be for **3** months.
- CDC Guidance: <https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>
- **HHS Opioids and Adolescents:** <https://www.hhs.gov/ash/oah/adolescent-development/substance-use/drugs/opioids/index.html>

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