

**Date: April 2, 2018**

**To: Keystone First Providers**

### Opioid Prescription Update

Keystone First continues to carefully review and update our prior authorization requirements for opioid prescriptions. Our collaborative goal with you is to ensure that Keystone First patients 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.

You may have received previous communications from us regarding such limits; however, based on valuable feedback from providers, members, and other stakeholders, these limits have thus far only been applied to members who were new to opioid therapy. Going forward, **all members who require treatment with opioid regimens that exceed applicable limits will require prior authorization according to the schedule below.**

Date	Dosing Limit*	Day supply limit	Member type
Currently in effect	>90 MME combined	>5 days	New to therapy
May 7, 2018	>160 MME combined**	>30 days**	All members**
July 2, 2018	>90 MME combined	>30 days**	All members**
September 4, 2018	>90 MME combined	>3 days (children) >5 days (adults)	All members

\*the MME calculation will accumulate the daily dose across products if members are receiving more than one opioid concurrently.

\*\*Members not previously authorized, identified as chronic utilizers, or excepted as below are still subject to current 90 MME/day and 5 day supply limits.

Exceptions: Member currently undergoing treatment for cancer or in hospice or palliative care will be exempt from these requirements. Claims for these members that do not auto-approve can receive a one year approval by calling 1-800-558-1655.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Pharmacy Services at 1-800-558-1655.