

# 1-888-OhioComp's Aggressive Management of Opioid Drugs

Opioid dependence can start off with a prescription for acute pain, which then can escalate to stronger medications and possibly illegal drug use. 1-888-OhioComp realizes the magnitude of this problem, and has been the most progressive MCO in stopping excessive use and abuse of opioids through our Drug Utilization Reviews.

DURs are used to stop the reimbursement of opioid and non-claim related medications and last year 1-888-OhioComp's case managers denied over 300 prescriptions through our DUR program.

To address this problem for injured workers, the BWC has mandated new guidelines for opioid usage. As of October 1, 2016, the BWC recommends using opioids for acute pain for no more than 12 weeks. After the 12 weeks, pre-authorization and supporting documentation for the continuing use of opioid medication in the chronic phase of pain treatment is necessary.

The BWC has developed new opioid prescribing rules to help prevent opioid dependence for Ohio injured workers that will:

- Encourage prescribers to incorporate best clinical practices when prescribing opioids to injured workers
- Establish provisions and criteria for treating opioid dependence that arises secondary to treatment with opioid medications covered by BWC only

The injured worker's claim does not need to have an allowance for drug dependency in order for BWC to reimburse the 18-month treatment plan. This is a risk charge to the injured worker's claim.

Reimbursement for treatments required to assist an injured worker during the discontinuance of opioid prescriptions in the chronic phase of pain shall only be provided in claims where the following actions are more than 12 weeks after an injured worker's date of injury/occupational disease or surgery related to the allowed conditions and will need:

- Documentation of intent to discontinue opioid treatment of the injured worker in a timeframe consistent with the standard dose tapering schedule
- Documentation in the medical record of a clear plan for tapering schedule
- Monthly documentation of adherence with the plan

The BWC will reimburse up to 18 months subsequent



to the date of the documented plan to discontinue opioids and will cover costs that are:

- Appropriate and medically necessary formulary medications with a prior authorization request that documents the medication is being used for the withdrawal of opioid medications
- Appropriate and medically necessary during the 18-month period to include inpatient treatment for detoxification for up to 30 days and outpatient treatment for opioid use disorder

Reimbursement is also contingent upon the following:

- Documentation of concurrence with the plan of treatment by the injured worker's physician of record or treating physician
- All medications prescribed for the purpose of the treatment of pain and opioid withdrawal during the 18-month period must be prescribed by a single designated prescriber selected by the injured worker. Any change in the prescriber must be approved by the administrator
- Documentation of compliance by the injured worker as indicated by monthly Ohio Automated Rx Reporting System (OARRS) reports and at least bi-monthly use of clinically validated and appropriate drug testing method. Evidence of more than two events of noncompliance by the injured worker shall be cause for the BWC to cease reimbursement for all clinical interventions directed at treating opioid withdrawal

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2900 CARNEGIE AVE., CLEVELAND, OH 44115 | 1-888-644-6266 | WWW.1-888-OHIOCOMP.COM