



CHOICESM
Health Plans

Provider News

Reminder: Opioid safety edits were implemented January 1, 2019

At VNSNY CHOICE Health Plans, our member's safety is our first priority. That's why we're reminding you of an important change that was implemented on January 1, 2019, that may continue to affect your patients in 2020.

In order to prevent prescription drug abuse and improve the safety of prescription medications, CMS (Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services), requires all Part D plans to follow opioid safety edits and a Drug Management Program.

We have published details regarding these edits and program on our website. You may access this information by visiting the page for Healthcare Professionals on our website under section titled, 'Provider Toolkit' or by using the link below:

[Get more details on Opioid Safety Edits](#)

Below is a summary of what you can view on the webpage:

- Seven-day supply limit for opioid naïve patients ("hard edit").
Important Note: This alert should not impact patients who already take opioids.
- Opioid care coordination alert at 90 morphine milligram equivalent (MME) (known as a "soft edit")
- Safety Alert at 200 MME or more ("hard edit")
- Concurrent opioid and benzodiazepine use or duplicative long-

acting opioid therapy (“soft edits”)

- Concurrent opioid and buprenorphine use (“soft edits”)
- A Brief overview of the Drug Management Program required by CMS for all Part D plans

Opioid safety edits and the Drug Management Program are established to provide collaborative care to beneficiaries while keeping their safety in mind. They are not intended as prescribing limits. Prescriber’s professional judgment and statements for medical necessity provided in any form of communication and methods by prescribers, will be honored and considered on case management reviews and prior authorization case reviews. This is to ensure beneficiaries’ access to necessary therapies are not limited in any way.

We encourage you and your on-call staff to be responsive to the phone calls or notifications received from the health plan or the pharmacists that contact you regarding these opioid safety programs. We greatly appreciate your time and collaboration in providing quality care to the beneficiaries.

[Read our full communication about Opioid Safety Edits](#)

[Read CMS Tip Sheet On Medicare Part D Opioid Policies](#)

To request Prior Authorization:

VNSNY CHOICE Total (HMO D-SNP): 1-888-672-7205

Fax number: 1-858-790-7100

Have Questions?

We’re here to help. And we’re happy to speak with you.
Toll Free: **1-866-783-0222** (TTY for the hearing impaired: 711)
Call us Monday – Friday, 9 am – 5 pm

**Thank you for being part of the
VNSNY CHOICE network of providers!**

**We want to make this publication useful to you. Please let us
know what you think! Write to us at
CHOICEProviderNews@vnsny.org.**

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