

# Ambetter Opioid Prescribing Limits

## Frequently Asked Questions



### Why are opioid prescribing limits being implemented for Ambetter members?

The opioid epidemic has claimed countless lives during the last 3 years. Many states are limiting a provider's ability to prescribe long-term opioid medications.

### When are the limits effective?

Effective September 17, 2018, Superior will institute Ambetter Opioid Prescribing Limits to help providers avoid opioid overutilization.

- *Note: Ambetter members who have legitimate medical need for long-term opioid use may be able to continue to obtain opioid prescriptions with a prior authorization.*

### Who is affected by these limits?

Current and future members that previously have not had an opioid prescription claim under this health plan.

### Who will be exempt from these limits?

Current and future members who have a condition that can only be managed by long-term opioid use may be exempt from this limit. Such conditions include, but are not limited to:

- Active cancer treatment
- Sickle cell
- Palliative care and end-of-life/hospice care

Historical claims on file with Superior may support access to the opiate product, otherwise prior authorization will be required to be eligible for long-term opioid use.

### Are there any other limits imposed?

Yes, there is a Drug Utilization Review (DUR) edit which also will check for daily Morphine Equivalent Doses (MED).

- If the MED is greater than 120 MED/day, the edit will reject the claim and present the dispensing pharmacist the option to override.

### How can the dispensing pharmacist override the Morphine Equivalent claim rejection?

The dispensing pharmacist can use standard Point of Service (POS) rejection override codes:

- Professional Pharmacy Service (PPS) codes: (M0, P0, PM, R0)
- Result of Service codes: (1B, 1C, 1D, 1F, 1G and 2A)

### What is the maximum daily limit?

A member will be able to get up to a maximum of a 7-day supply of opioid medications for an initial fill. The second fill will be limited to an additional 7-day supply. The member will be able to obtain up to 2 fills in any 28-day period and up to a 28-day supply in any 90-day period.

- *For example: If the member fills a 7-day supply on July 1st, the member would be able to get another 7-day fill on the 8th. The member would then have to wait 2 weeks to obtain an additional 7-day fill, unless prior authorization is obtained.*

### Can a dispensing pharmacist override maximum daily limits?

No, overrides on maximum daily limits are not allowed and will require prior authorization. If authorization is needed to increase a member's maximum daily limit, the provider must fax or call a request into the Envolve Pharmacy Solutions Prior Authorization department:

- By Fax - Submit a *Prior Authorization Request Form for Non-Specialty Drugs* to 1-866-399-0929.
  - Forms can be found at [Ambetter from Superior HealthPlan's Pharmacy webpage](#).
- By Phone - Call 1-866-399-0928.

### Who can I contact with questions?

For prior authorization questions, please contact the Envolve Pharmacy Solutions Prior Authorization department at 1-866-399-0928.

- For any other questions, please reach out to Superior's Pharmacy department at 1-800-218-7453, ext. 22080.