

**Date:** August 1, 2018

**To:** AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices Providers

**Subject:** Opioid Prescription Update

AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Community HealthChoices continue to carefully review and update our prior authorization requirements for opioid prescriptions. Our goal is to work with you to help ensure that our Participants 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.

Effective 9/4/2018, prior authorization will be required for\*:

- All extended-release/long acting (ER/LA) opioids.
- Any opioid regimen greater than or equal to 90 MME per day (calculated across all products if members are receiving more than one opioid concurrently).

\*This change is **not** applicable to AmeriHealth Caritas VIP Care members.

Participants that are currently undergoing treatment for cancer, in hospice, receiving palliative care or identified as having sickle cell disease will be exempt from these requirements. Claims for these Participants that do not auto-approve can receive a one year approval by calling 1-888-674-8720.

Prior authorization forms for opioid containing products, as well as opioid treatment resources may be found on AmeriHealth Caritas Pennsylvania Community Health Choices website at [www.amerihealthcaritaschc.com](http://www.amerihealthcaritaschc.com) → Providers → Pharmacy services.

If you have any questions regarding this notice, please contact Pharmacy Services at 1-888-674-8720.