

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES

DIVISION OF HEALTH CARE SERVICES

July 22, 2011

Sean Parnell, Governor

4501 Business Park Blvd
Suite 24 Bldg L
Anchorage, AK 99503-7167
Telephone: (907) 334-2400
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Dear Prescribers and Pharmacists:

Re: Opioid Quantity Limits

In response to the national epidemic of unintentional overdose fatalities from prescription medications, the Drug Utilization Review Committee has reviewed and approved a series of prospective drug utilization review (ProDUR) criteria for opioid analgesics. The quantity limit edits for opioid analgesics will be implemented on or after August 22, 2011 and will apply to all claims for opioid analgesics.

Quantity Limits

Claims for opioid analgesics will have a maximum daily quantity limit programmed into the pharmacy point of sale system; any claim exceeding the daily maximum limit will deny. Claims for recipients being treated for cancer pain or who are in hospice or long term care may be overridden using the codes below. Claims for recipients being treated for chronic non-cancer pain (CNCP) that exceed the maximum daily limits will require prior authorization; requests from the prescriber to exceed the daily quantity limits for CNCP will be reviewed on a case by case basis. A listing of the opioid analgesic daily quantity limits is available online at the Medication Prior Authorization website: http://hss.state.ak.us/dhcs/PDL/drug_lists_pdl/max_units_1-2011.pdf.

Overrides

To override the quantity limit for recipients being treated for cancer pain or who are in hospice or long term care please submitting the following information in the indicated field on the pharmacy claim.

Cancer Pain:	Enter "11" in Patient Location field
Hospice:	Enter "2" in PA type field
Long Term Care:	Enter "4" in Patient Location field

*****Note: overriding a quantity limit using one of the codes above for a recipient that is not being treated for cancer pain or is not in hospice or long term care may result in an overpayment that will be recouped by the Department.*****

Please contact me at (907) 334-2654 if you have any questions about this notice.

Sincerely,



Chad Hope, Pharm.D.
Lead Pharmacist

cc: William J. Streur, Commissioner
Kim Poppe-Smart, Deputy Commissioner
Alex Malter, M.D., Medicaid Medical Director