

# SUPPORT Act Opioid Edits



FEBRUARY 2020

ILLINOIS

Dear Providers,

MeridianHealth (Meridian) will be implementing a new opioid overutilization policy for our Medicaid members. This policy will begin on March 1, 2020. We are contacting you to make you aware of our new program so you may better serve your patients.

Following CMS guidance, Meridian will have new pharmacy edits (stops) in place at the pharmacy point-of-sale to manage Medicaid member overutilization of frequently abused drugs. Some may involve the dispensing pharmacist contacting the prescriber to obtain approval. Others may require the prescriber to request a coverage determination.

**Important Note:** Morphine milligram equivalent (MME) thresholds and day supply limits are not prescribing limits. Decisions to taper or discontinue prescription opioids are individualized between the patient and prescriber.

**Soft Edits (may be overridden at pharmacy level):**

- Members who are taking  $\geq 90$  MME cumulative daily opioid therapy (this edit will require the dispensing pharmacist to call the prescriber for approval)
- Members who are taking both an opioid and an antipsychotic
- Members who are taking both an opioid and a benzodiazepine

**Hard Edits (will require coverage determination):**

- Members who are taking  $\geq 200$  MME cumulative daily opioid therapy

Members who are undergoing active treatment for cancer pain, palliative end-of-life, hospice, or are in long-term care are excluded.

If there is a known reason that a member will need an override to the hard edit, the prescriber may initiate a coverage determination prior to the prescribing of the medication. Per CMS guidance, medication assisted treatments (MAT), such as buprenorphine, will be excluded from the calculation of a patient's MME.

Thank you for being a part of our provider network! If you have any questions, please contact the MeridianRx team at **855-580-1688**.

Sincerely,

MeridianHealth