



# ADVISORY

**No. 225**

**April 20, 2021**

## **Important Information Regarding Medicaid Fee-for-Service Opioid Naive Participants**

In order to comply with federal regulations (Ref. # CMS-2482-F, 12/31/2020), effective March 1, 2021, Opioid Naive Patients, identified as those who have not received an opioid, either short or long acting, within the last 90 days, will be limited to seven (7) day supply on the initial fill for both short acting and long acting opioids.

The Office of Pharmacy Services (OPS) will implement a “soothing period” from April 1, 2021 through May 31, 2021. During the “soothing period,” opioid claims for Opioid Naive Patients that exceed the day supply limits referenced above, will continue to pay and pharmacy providers will receive the following message: “Effective June 1<sup>st</sup> Opioid naive, defined as no paid opiate claim in last 90 days, will be limited to a 7 day supply initial prescription for Medicaid participants”. At the end of the soothing period, opioid claims for Opioid Naive Patients that exceed the day supply limits referenced above, will be denied at the Point of Sale and require a prior authorization by the prescriber.

These day supply limits would not apply to Medicaid participants who are currently receiving an opioid, as well as any participant who has a diagnosis of Hospice Care, Palliative Care, Cancer or Sickle Cell Disease.

If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact 1-800-492-5231, option # 3.

In an effort to give timely notice to the pharmacy community concerning important pharmacy topics, the Maryland Department of Health (**MDH**) **Office of Pharmacy Services (OPS)** has developed the **Maryland Medicaid Pharmacy Program Advisory**.

To expedite information timely to the pharmacy and prescriber communities, an email network has been established which incorporates the email lists of the Maryland Pharmacists Association, EPIC, CARE, Long Term Care Consultants, headquarters of all chain drugstores and prescriber associations and organizations.

It is our hope that the information is disseminated to all interested parties. If you have not received this email through any of the previously noted parties or via MDH, please contact the OPS representative at 410-767-1455.