

May 1, 2017

Dear Provider:

Jai Medical Systems Managed Care Organization, Inc. (Jai Medical Systems) is writing to inform you that in accordance with directives from the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, our opioid prescription prescribing policy will change. Effective June 1, 2017, Jai Medical Systems is implementing a new prior authorization requirement for certain types, strengths, and combinations of pain medications.

### **Background**

In 2016, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) released new recommendations concerning the Prescribing of Opioids for Chronic Pain. The 2016 CDC guidelines recommend keeping the total opioid dose below 50 morphine milliequivalents (MME) per day. Moreover, prescribing above 90 MME is to be avoided as the risk for overdose and death is significantly higher when opiate doses are above this threshold. Risk of overdose and death also increases when opiates are used in combination with benzodiazepines or non-benzodiazepine sedative hypnotics.<sup>1</sup> In order to reduce the risk of overdose, the CDC recommends offering naloxone when factors, such as those described above are present.

We urge you to ensure that all prescriptions you write for opioids comply with the CDC recommendations. Please be aware that information regarding the prescription history of most patients, including information regarding controlled dangerous substances (CDS), is available from the Prescription Drug Monitoring Program (PDMP). The PDMP can be accessed through the Chesapeake Regional Information System for our Patients (CRISP). If you are not already a registered CRISP user you can register for **free** at [https://crisphealth.force.com/crisp2\\_login](https://crisphealth.force.com/crisp2_login). PDMP usage is highly encouraged for all CDS prescribers and will become mandatory on July 1, 2018.

### **Prior Authorization Rules**

Starting on June 1, 2017, any Jai Medical Systems' member who receives a **new** prescription for a long acting opioid, fentanyl patch, methadone for pain, or quantity of opioids totaling more than 90 MME per day (including cumulative quantities of medications totaling more than 90 MME), will require a completed *Analgesic Opioid Prior Authorization Form* to be submitted before they can be approved.

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<sup>1</sup> Instructions on calculating MME is available at: [https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating\\_total\\_daily\\_dose-a.pdf](https://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/pdf/calculating_total_daily_dose-a.pdf). The full 2016 CDC guidance on pain management can be found at: <http://www.cdc.gov/drugoverdose/prescribing/guideline.html>.

The *Analgesic Opioid Prior Authorization Form* includes a required attestation for each of the following (except where clinical consideration for cancer, sickle cell disease, hospice, or pregnancy is appropriate):

1. The prescriber has reviewed the patient's prescription history for CDS prescriptions in the PDMP.
2. The patient has and will have random urine drug screens.
3. A Naloxone prescription was offered to the patient.
4. The Patient-Prescriber Pain Management/Opioid Treatment Agreement/Contract has been signed by both the patient and the provider and is filed in the patient's medical record.

Medications that currently require prior authorization (such as Fentanyl and long acting opioids like Oxycontin) will continue to require a completed standard Prior Authorization Request Form before their initial fill in addition to the new *Analgesic Opioid Prior Authorization Form*.

For patients who are currently on opioid medications that are covered by this policy change; an *Analgesic Opioid Prior Authorization Form* must be completed in accordance with this new policy by July 1, 2017, if their therapy is to continue after July 1, 2017. You may request this prior authorization for your patient in advance in order to have it in place before this policy change goes into effect.

Our current formulary, information about formulary changes, the *Analgesic Opioid Prior Authorization Form*, and the standard Prior Authorization Request Form can be found on our website at <http://www.jaimedicalsystems.com/providers/pharmacy/>. A copy of the *Analgesic Opioid Prior Authorization Form* and the Standard Prior Authorization Request Form are also enclosed with this letter.

If you have any questions about these policy changes, or if you would like a copy of the forms emailed, please contact me at [amanda@jaimedical.com](mailto:amanda@jaimedical.com).

Sincerely,



Amanda Saunders  
Pharmacy Benefits Manager

<Enclosure>