

PROVIDER BULLETIN

Published by Wyoming Workers' Safety and Compensation Medical Case Management Unit
MARCH 2007

TOPIC: Opioid Management for Non-malignant Pain

Effective for date of injury May 1, 2007 and forward.

These guidelines are intended for use by Health Care Providers (HCP) who begin opioid treatment beyond four (4) months following the injured workers' injury. Prescribing of opioids requires special considerations, and it is the position of the Division that opioids may be prescribed, dispensed, or administered when there is an indicated medical need. The guidelines detail Health Care Provider assessments, management, medical record documentation, and timeframes to consider for discontinuing opioid therapy.

The Division will authorize opioids to treat chronic, non-malignant pain as long as the injured worker has substantial reduction in pain and continuing substantial improvement in function.

Preauthorization requirements for treatment of chronic, non-malignant pain with opioid.

A. The HCP should complete the chronic pain preauthorization form and submit to the Division via fax 307-777-8724.

B. The HCP should submit a written report to the Division, which includes:

- treatment plan with time-limited goals.
- relevant medical history.
- summary of conservative care focusing on efforts at return to work.
- statement why conservative measures have failed or not appropriate for treatment.
- summary of any consultations and factors that may be barriers to recovery.
- statement regarding appropriate screening for factors that may increase the risk of abuse and other adverse outcomes.
- opioid agreement signed by the HCP and injured worker.

Required documentation for continued coverage of opioids.

Each thirty (30) days the HCP must submit the following information.

- documentation of drug screenings, consultations, and all other treatment trials.
- documentation of outcomes and responses, including pain intensity and functional levels.
- any modifications to the treatment plan.

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The Division will continue to pay for treatment with opioids if the HCP documents:

- substantial reduction of the injured worker's pain intensity.
- continuing substantial improvement in the injured worker's function.

Opioid treatment for chronic non-malignant pain beyond the first four months without documentation of substantial improvement is presumed to not be medically necessary.

Payment for opioid medications may be denied when there is:

- absent or inadequate documentation.
- claimant noncompliance with the treatment plan.
- pain and functional status have not substantially improved after four (4) months.
- evidence of misuse or abuse of the opioid medication or other drugs or noncompliance with the treating HCP request for a drug screen.

The Division may pay for non-opioid medications for the treatment of chronic non-malignant pain when it is medically necessary.

Medically Necessary. "Medically necessary treatment" means those health services for a compensable injury that are reasonable and necessary for the diagnosis and cure or significant relief of a condition consistent with any applicable treatment parameter. Wyoming Workers' Compensation Rules, Regulations and Fee Schedules Effective March 2007.

Treatment Guidelines and preauthorization forms can be accessed online at: <http://doe.wyo.gov>

For any questions, please contact Patty Ware, RN at 307-777-3630 or Liz Sims, RN at 307-332-5766.