



A Public Entity

Inland Empire Health Plan

<h1>PHARMACY TIMES</h1> <p><b>BY IEHP PHARMACEUTICAL SERVICES DEPARTMENT</b>  <b>December 31, 2018</b></p>
--

**Reminder:**  
**Opioid and Benzodiazepine Restrictions for Medicare Members**

Dear IEHP Pharmacy Provider,

The Center of Medicare & Medicaid Service (CMS) has recently announced new developments in addressing the overutilization of Opioids. At IEHP, we look forward to working with our providers to ensure the safety and well-being of our members throughout this time. As provided by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), clinical evidence supports limiting the day supply of opioids as they significantly increase hazards and physical dependence without any additional pain control. <sup>(1)</sup> Often, if the quantity of opioids prescribed for an acute event is not limited, the remaining supply can be a source of misuse. Therefore, IEHP will be implementing Point-Of-Sale (POS) edits to assist in possible overutilization of medications.

**Effective January 1<sup>st</sup> 2019, IEHP will be enforcing the following:**

Type of POS Edit	Description	NCPDP Rejection Code	Error Message
<b>Prescriptions written for more than 7 days for the treatment of acute pain in opioid naïve patients</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Opioid prescriptions for an <u>acute</u> event will be limited to a maximum of <b>7-days supply</b> and will reject at the point of sale.</li> </ul>	925	Initial fill days supply exceeds limits
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Patient will be considered opioid-naïve if there have been no opioid prescriptions filled in the last 60 days <sup>(2)</sup></li> <li>A Pharmacist will have the ability to override the claim after clinical justification is provided by the Prescriber.</li> </ul>	88	DUR Reject Error



A Public Entity

Inland Empire Health Plan

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Not applicable for chronic pain (i.e. palliative care, cancer, residents of long-term care facilities).</li> </ul>		
<b>Prescriptions written for greater than or equal to 90 Morphine Milligram Equivalent (MME)</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rejection will occur at the point-of-sale for when the MME is greater than or equal to 90.</li> <li>• A Pharmacist will have the ability to override the claim after clinical justification is provided by the Prescriber.</li> </ul>	88  922	DUR Reject Error  Morphine Equivalent Dose Exceeds Limits
<b>Duplicate long-acting opioid agents</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A rejection will occur at the point of sale when two or more long-acting opioid agents filled concurrently will reject at the point of sale:</li> <li>• A Pharmacist will have the ability to override the claim after clinical justification is provided by the Prescriber</li> </ul>	88	DUR Reject Error
<b>Concurrent use of an Opioid and Benzodiazepine</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• An opioid and a benzodiazepine filled concurrently will reject and require review by a Pharmacist.</li> </ul>	88	DUR Reject Error

### Pharmacy Action

Review the appropriateness of the POS rejects for one of the following possible actions:

1. Claim is rejecting appropriately, notify member/prescriber.
2. A clinical review is needed by the pharmacist, and if appropriate, pharmacist may input NCPDP's DUR PPS codes for override OR a Coverage Determination request should be submitted.

**Note: IEHP will be monitoring the use of the DUR PPS override codes through retrospective reviews. Any inappropriate override will be subject to audits and potential recoupment or exclusion from the IEHP pharmacy network.**



A Public Entity

## Inland Empire Health Plan

IEHP aims to support our pharmacy affiliates by establishing escalation protocols regarding these mandates through our Member/Provider Services department. Together, we can be advocates for our patients and combat the opioid crisis one prescription at a time.

If you have any additional questions, please feel free to contact us at (909) 890-2049, option 3 between 8:00 AM -6:00 PM Monday through Friday. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,  
IEHP Pharmaceutical Services

References: [1] CDC. Multiple cause of death data on CDC WONDER. Atlanta, GA: US Department of Health and Human Services, CDC; 2016. <http://wonder.cdc.gov/mcd.html> [2] The 2019 Rate Announcement and Call Letter, and the Request for Information may be viewed through: <https://www.cms.gov/Medicare/Health-Plans/MedicareAdvtgSpecRateStats/Announcements-and-Documents.html> and selecting "2019 Announcement."