



Department of Health

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MEDICAID DRUG UTILIZATION REVIEW INTERVENTION NOTICE : American Dental Association Interim Policy on Opioid Prescribing Guidelines

August 19, 2018

Dear Medicaid Provider,

The New York State Medicaid Drug Utilization Review (DUR) Program retrospectively reviews the prescribing and dispensing of outpatient prescription medications to ensure that prescriptions are appropriate, medically necessary, and not likely to result in adverse medical outcomes. In conjunction with the Medicaid Dental Director, the Department has reviewed Dental Medicaid claims from April 1st 2017 – March 31st, 2018. This data indicates that prescription claims submitted for members with your NPI number were for opioids.

The purpose of this letter is to highlight the American Dental Association's recent announcement of their interim policy on Opioid Prescribing Guidelines for Acute Dental Pain to help fight the country's opioid epidemic which can be found here: <https://www.ada.org/en/publications/ada-news/2018-archive/march/ada-adopts-interim-opioids-policy>. In the interim policy, the Association says it supports the following:

- Mandatory continuing education on prescribing opioids and other controlled substances.
- Prescribing limits on opioid dosage and duration of no more than seven days for the treatment of acute pain, consistent with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's evidence-based guidelines.
- Dentists registering with and utilizing prescription drug monitoring programs to promote the appropriate use of opioids and deter misuse and abuse.

In presenting this information to you, the DUR Program and Bureau of Medical, Dental, and Pharmacy Policy recognizes that safe and effective pharmacotherapy depends on the assessment of the patient's entire clinical profile. We ask that you consider the information provided regarding opioid therapy for your patients.

Thank you for your professional attention in this matter.

Sincerely,

Michele Griguts, DDS
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