

Subject: Adopted Governmental Pharmacy Requirements

The following requirements have been recently adopted and are of interest to First Script clients.

Concurrent use of opioids and benzodiazepines

Hawaii

Hawaii Senate Bill 505 established that initial concurrent prescriptions for opioids and benzodiazepines shall not be for longer than seven consecutive days unless a supply of longer than seven days is determined to be medically necessary. As of May 14, 2019, the First Script Smart Prior Authorization process has been configured to address this rule and to provide authorization guidance for the impacted claims.

Co-prescribing of naloxone

Maryland

Maryland Department of Health adopted new guidelines for co-prescribing of opioid overdose reversal drugs. When determined appropriate by the prescriber, if the individual is at an increased risk of experiencing an opioid overdose, that individual may be co-prescribed an opioid overdose reversal drug. Per the regulation, the targeted patient population includes, but is not limited to an individual who:

- a) Is being prescribed opioids for acute, if appropriate, or chronic pain;
- b) Is being treated for an opioid use disorder;
- c) Is receiving a prescription for an opioid and a benzodiazepine; or
- d) Resides or spends time with an individual who is prescribed opioids, misuses opioids, or has an opioid use disorder.

As of June 21, 2019, the First Script Smart Prior Authorization process has been configured to address this rule and to provide state-specific messaging for the naloxone prescriptions that are pending prior authorization.

Opioid limitations

Wyoming

Wyoming statute 35-7-1030 established opioid prescribing limitations where no practitioner shall prescribe any opioid or combination of opioids for acute pain to an opioid naïve (no active opioid in the preceding 45-day period) patient for more than a seven-day supply in a seven-day period.

Effective July 1, 2019, First Script will limit all opioid scripts to a seven-day supply if there are no previous opioid scripts in the last 45 days. Smart Prior Authorization will also be configured to address this limitation and provide appropriate state-specific messaging to help guide authorization on the impacted claims.

Minnesota, Nevada, Rhode Island

Minnesota HB 400, Nevada AB 239, and Rhode Island HB 5537 are some of the latest bills that target the prescribing and dispensing of opioids in an effort to decrease unnecessary opioid prescribing and utilization. While providing specific opioid limitations for the prescribers to adhere to, these bills also state that if, in the professional clinical judgment of the practitioner, more than these limits are required for treatment, the practitioner may issue prescriptions that exceed those limits.

For those interested in obtaining a list of transactions that exceeded these opioid limitations, First Script will have retrospective reporting available upon request.

If you have additional questions regarding the adoption of these requirements, please contact your First Script Account Manager or Account Pharmacist.