



**IMPORTANT NOTICE:
WVCH CCO OPIOID AUTHORIZATION POLICY
And COVERED ALTERNATIVE BENEFITS**

CCO opioid authorization policy:

- Coverage up to a maximum of **120 morphine equivalent dose (MED)** per day for members with funded painful conditions. Opioids are not medically appropriate treatment options for neck and back pain, migraine headaches, or abdominal pain per current CDC guidelines.
- For patients currently approved for coverage of high dose opiates, approved tapering requests will be allowed for up to 60 days for short acting opioids and 180 days for long acting opioids. If a longer taper period is required, additional time may be allowed with the following included in the PA request:
 - Revised taper plan
 - Evidence of member adherence, including documentation of tapering progress to-date
 - Evidence of compliance with WVCH Opioid PA criteria, member using non-opioid alternative treatment, and pain management agreement with provider

Alternative non-pharmacologic services covered for pain:

The CCO added benefits for non-pharmacologic therapies to help in managing acute and chronic pain. These include access to treatments such as (a list of the providers for these services is at WVCHHealth.org):

- Physical Therapy/Occupational Therapy
- Chiropractic manipulation
- Acupuncture
- Osteopathic manipulation

Alternative non-opioid medications covered for pain (* requires prior authorization)

- Acetaminophen
- Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs / NSAIDs (ibuprofen, naproxen, meloxicam)
- Topical capsaicin cream
- Topical diclofenac 1% gel*
- Topical lidocaine cream
- Gabapentin capsules
- Cymbalta (duloxetine) and Tricyclic antidepressants are available through Oregon Health Authority

Specific opioid related questions:

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