UnitedHealthcare Pharmacy
Clinical Pharmacy Programs

Program Number	2026 P 4010-9
Program	Supply Limits - Greater than 34 day supply for opioids at retail
Medication	Includes all salt forms, single and combination ingredient products short-acting and long-acting opioid formulations, and all brand and generic formulations
P&T Approval Date	9/2018, 9/2019, 9/2020, 9/2021, 3/2023, 4/2024, 5/2025, 6/2026
Effective Date	9/1/2026

1. Background:

The Center for Disease Control (CDC) recommends that clinicians should prescribe the lowest effective dosage when opioids are started. Clinicians should use caution when prescribing opioids at any dosage and guidelines note that opioids are not first-line or routine therapy for chronic pain.

This program allows members with a greater than 34 day supply plan at retail to receive more than a one month supply of opioids up to plan allowance.

2. Coverage Criteria:

A. Greater than 34 day supply at retail will be approved based on **BOTH** of the following:

1. The member requires a greater than one month supply of opioid medications
2. Document the diagnosis associated with the need for pain management

Authorization will be issued for plans that allow a greater than 34 day supply at retail up to the plan allowance of days supply for 12 months.

3. Additional Clinical Programs:

- Notwithstanding Coverage Criteria, UnitedHealthcare may approve initial and re-authorization based solely on previous claim/medication history, diagnosis codes (ICD-10) and/or claim logic. Use of automated approval and re-approval processes varies by program and/or therapeutic class.
- Supply limits may be in place.
- Opioid Cumulative Dose Review may be in place.
- Prior Authorization/Medical Necessity may be in place.
- Prior Authorization/New to Therapy may be in place.

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4. References:

1. Dowell D, Ragan KR, Jones CM, Baldwin GT, Chou R. CDC Clinical Practice Guideline for Prescribing Opioids for Pain — United States, 2022. MMWR Recomm Rep 2022;71(No. RR-3):1–95. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.15585/mmwr.rr7103a1.

Program	Greater than 34 day supply for opioids at retail
Change Control	
9/2018	New program
9/2019	Annual review. No changes.
9/2020	Annual review. No changes.
9/2021	Annual review. No changes.
3/2023	Annual review. Updated references.
4/2024	Annual review. No changes.
5/2025	Annual review. No changes.
6/2026	Annual review. No changes.

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